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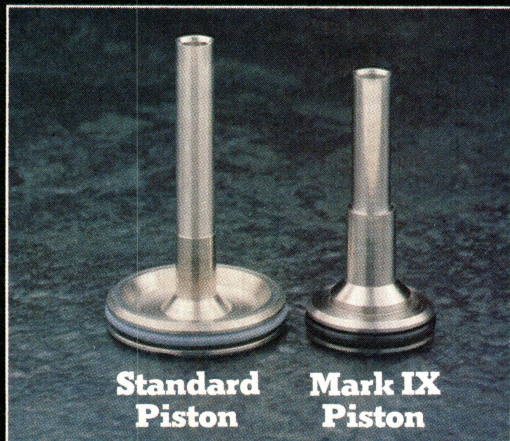
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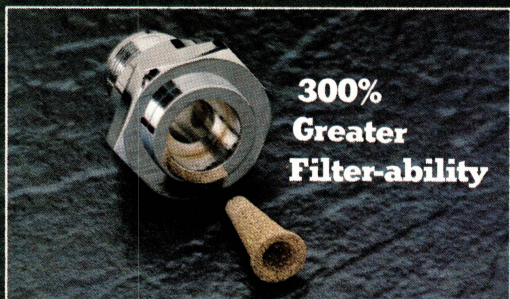
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Scubapro's Mark IX is a smaller, lighter, improved version of the famous, often copied Scubapro Mark VIII. Because of its smaller size, fewer parts, and newer design features, the Mark IX is destined to lead innumerable divers to the fact that smaller is bigger in scuba.

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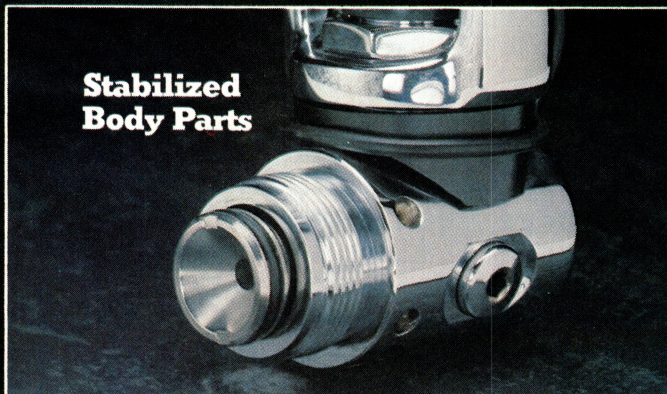


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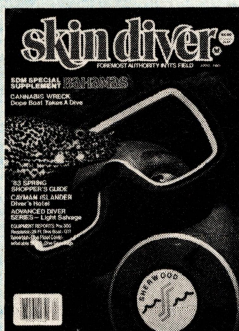
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skin diver

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COVER

The Bahamas are filled with a multitude of adventures, and being eyeball-to-eyeball with a spotted moray eel is just one example. For more on this tropical diver's wonderland see page 75. Photo/Geri Murphy.

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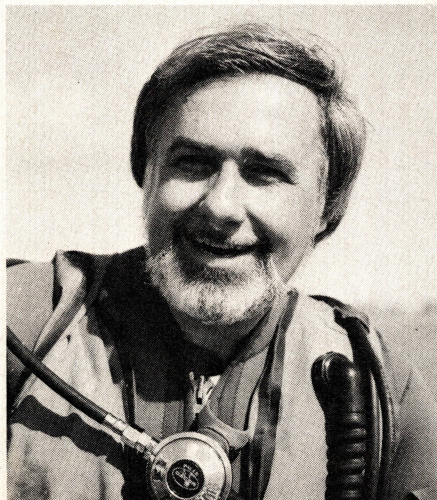
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SDM Editorial

BY THE PUBLISHER



IS THE C-CARD A DINOSAUR?

In the past few issues of SKIN DIVER we have discussed the problem related to the credibility gap in the present C-card system. What the card implies the diver can do and what he/she can actually do in the water seem to be miles apart at times. Consider the problems:

- * Thousands of people are turning up at dive resorts in the Caribbean and Florida showing their C-cards, but unable to dive safely.

- * The reasons for this scuba incompetence include such causes as: poor training; lack of ocean experience; no recent dive experience (well trained divers who haven't been wet in two or three years); failure to update knowledge and/or equipment; or, just plain forgetfulness.

- * Dive resort operators and boat skippers are frustrated because they cannot distinguish the capable, experienced divers from those who need supervision and retraining. They suspect every new arrival and treat all as beginners.

- * Divemasters are freaking out because they are forced to risk their lives for incompetent divers who should never have been allowed on the dive boat in the first place. Divemasters also start treating everyone as beginners and play it safe by taking boat loads of divers only to beginner dive sites.

- * Experienced divers are furious because they are forced to dive mediocre beginner sites even though they are fully qualified to dive the best spots which may have currents or greater depths. They feel oversupervised, herded along the

reef, cheated out of good diving. They are being penalized for the incompetency of others.

- * Scuba instructors in the U.S. are equally upset with the present situation because they never intended the basic C-card to qualify a newly graduated student for ocean wall dives or other advanced diving conditions. The basic or even basic open water C-card is merely the beginning. Advance diver training, plus experience, should be required.

- * Unfortunately, human nature is not always wise or prudent. Freshly graduated divers, armed with a C-card and enough money for a plane ticket, are rushing headlong into the warm water resort areas, eager to sample the beauty and thrills which are legendary in all dive films, magazines and symposiums. How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm once they've heard about those big beautiful drop-offs?

What is the one common denominator in this long string of problems? The C-card of course. It plays a key role in much of the confusion, miscommunication and bitterness which exist today.

When the C-card first gained universal acceptance 15 years ago, it was a tremendous tool. It was this sport's method of imposing voluntary regulation and making basic scuba training virtually mandatory. It served our sport very well and probably saved thousands of lives.

Since then, the sport has been gradually changing. Dive/travel has become the single most important interest and activity in the sport. SKIN DIVER's 1983 Readers Survey indicates 82 percent of its readers now travel interstate on dive trips and that 42 percent travel overseas on dive vacations.

Divers are definitely on the move, and because of this, there is a critical need to transmit and transport records of training/experience along with the divers. Unfortunately, the C-card does not carry sufficient data in its present form.

Many instructors and instructional agencies have attempted to supplement

the C-card with logbooks and training records of all kinds. While the concept is excellent, it is also a bit idealistic. The logbook approach has met only partial acceptance by the diving public. Perhaps it is because divers have a difficult time stuffing logbooks into their wallets. There is a place for a diver's logbook in this sport; it is a wonderful method for documenting each dive for later reference. Yet, the logbook has not proven to be the solution to the current problem.

What this sport needs is a new form of modernized C-card which meets the needs of today's traveling diver and the resort dive operator at the other end. The resort operators and divemaster would prefer one which clearly lists pertinent data such as:

- * Date of initial training.
- * Date of last dive.
- * Total number of dives.
- * Diving environments experienced.
- * Level of training experience.

Is it possible to fit all of this information onto that tiny C-card? Certainly and, probably a lot more. The technology of plasticized identification cards has progressed to a point where anything is possible. Just look at the data and codes listed on the new telephone credit cards.

This sport needs a C-card which can be updated at regular intervals so that the pertinent data is current and meaningful. With the advent of computers, it is possible for training associations to maintain updated records on every scuba class graduate. A system could be developed for documenting dive experience as well as training and all of this data could be listed on a re-issued card.

Reorganizing the C-card system is not a cure-all for the difficulties we are presently experiencing at dive resorts, but it could cure perhaps 50 percent of the problems. It could be a step in the right direction. It won't be easy at first and there will be additional costs, but an updated C-card program is possible. In fact, it's not only possible—it's needed. 

THE CANNABIS

CRUISER

dope smuggler's loss
becomes diver's gain

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

It's not hard to imagine the scenario. The night was moonless, black and mysterious with a cool breeze sweeping in off the Gulf Stream. The men aboard the 70 foot steel-hulled craft were nervously pacing the decks, their eyes constantly alternating between the horizon and their 24 karat gold watches. The black-hulled speedboat was overdue to meet them and off-load their expensive cargo. Something was obviously wrong. They picked their rendezvous point, near Alligator Light off Islamorada in the Florida Keys, very carefully. But the same factors which made it easy to meet with the speedboat also exposed them to scrutiny by the Coast Guard and paranoia was rampant. It's not like you can pull into the marina with a ship filled with \$500,000 worth of marijuana, refuel, call your connection on the telephone, and sip pina coladas while your suitcase full of money is delivered. In this case the connection didn't materialize in time and rather than risk arrest by sitting conspicuously offshore, the plugs were pulled and the smugglers went ashore in their dinghy.

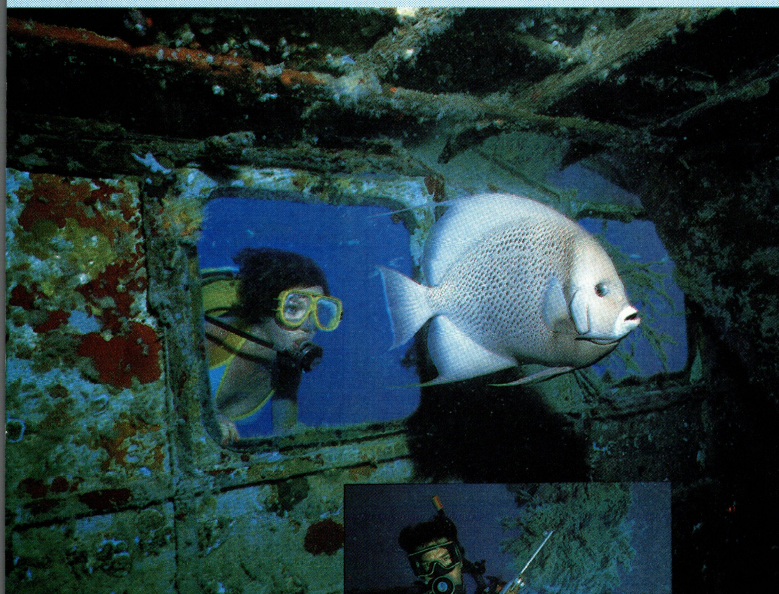
This was bad luck for the smugglers, but good luck for divers visiting the Florida Keys. They may have lost money, but we gained an exciting new wreck sitting in 110 feet of water only five miles off the southern end of Islamorada. The steel hull is heavily sponge and coral encrusted, for the wreck has been down at least six years. She sits upright and is constantly surrounded by schools of baitfish. Of course this brings in the predators, from the schools of jack and the resident 300 pound jewfish, to the more unusual residents such as the sawfish and occasional shark. The Loran and radar went down with her, as did over 100 bales of marijuana. Just as the electronics are beyond salvage, the pot is nothing but worthless seaweed. But it all adds to the surrealism inherent in any wreck dive.

The evolution of this wreck, we call her the *Cannabis Cruiser*, from a dope runner's illicit nightmare to a diver's dream is an interesting story in itself. A sportfishing captain from Islamorada, ever vigilant for new locations to assure his customers of an easy catch, picked up a spiked reading on his fathometer in the midst of a sandy bottom. Generally this means wreck and where there is a good wreck there is usually good fishing. So, he took his binoculars and fixed a position from shore ranges. This was a wreck he alone knew about (of course the smugglers knew but they weren't talking) and he kept it for himself. He fished it when the other boats weren't out and while his first dive on the wreck told the story of why she sank, he was more interested in good fishing than bad pot.

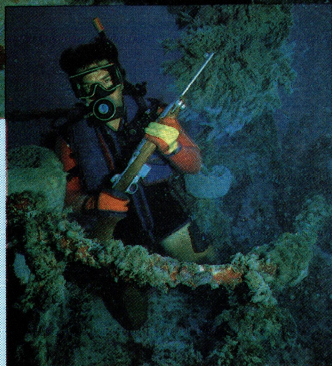
The captain kept the wreck as his private preserve for five years. But fishermen are a suspicious lot and he knew it would not keep forever. So he told his good friend Buddy Brown about the wreck and gave him the appropriate ranges. Buddy runs Buddy's Dive Shop in Bud and Mary's Marina in Islamorada, and he doesn't run fishing charters. Who better to finally share the secret of the wreck?

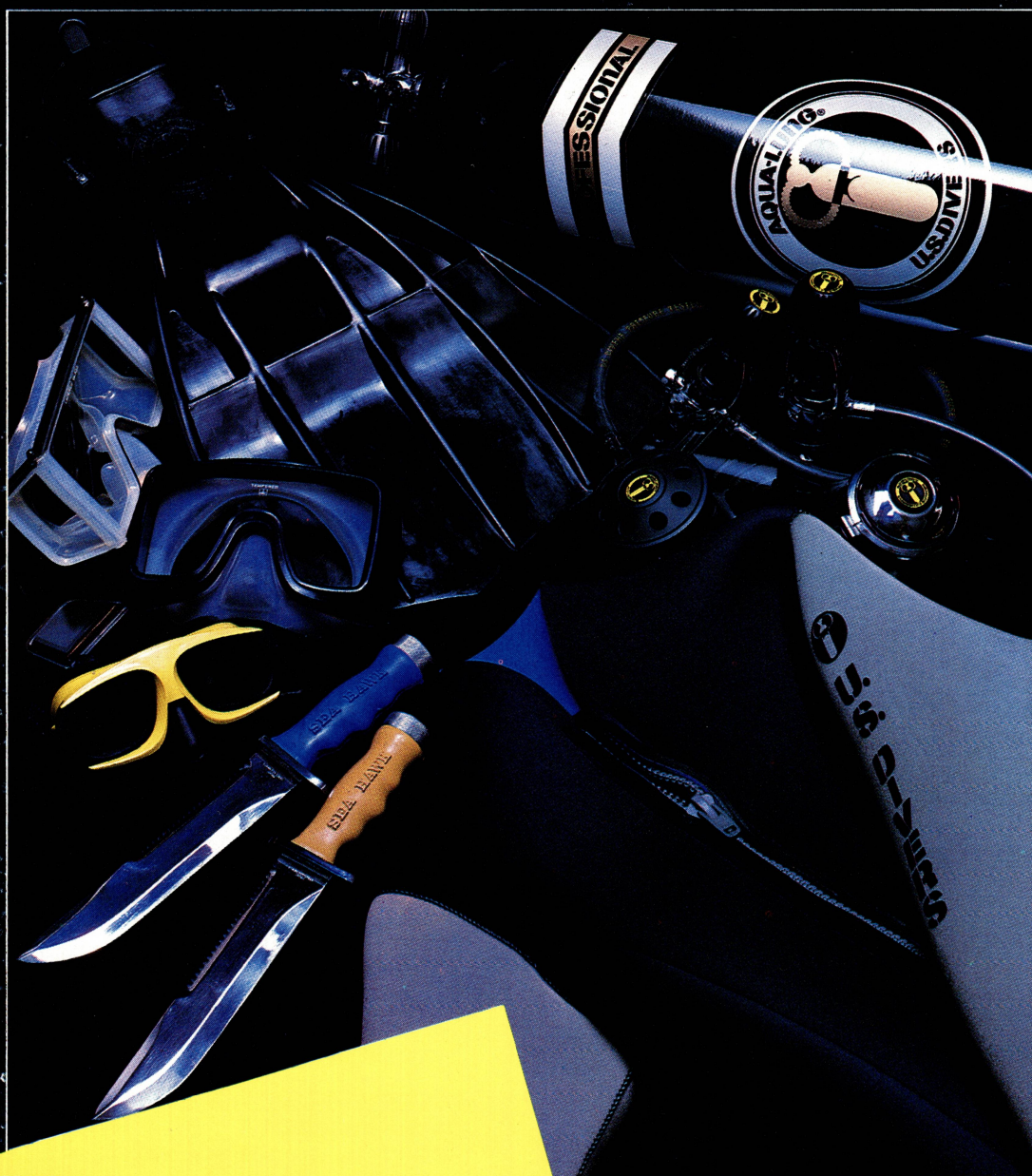
Buddy has been running sport diving trips to the *Cannabis Cruiser* since September 1982. He generally takes

(Continued on Page 12)



Right: Buddy Brown stands an underwater guard over the *Cannabis Cruiser*. The wreck is a haven for marine life and divers, yet holds bales of marijuana.





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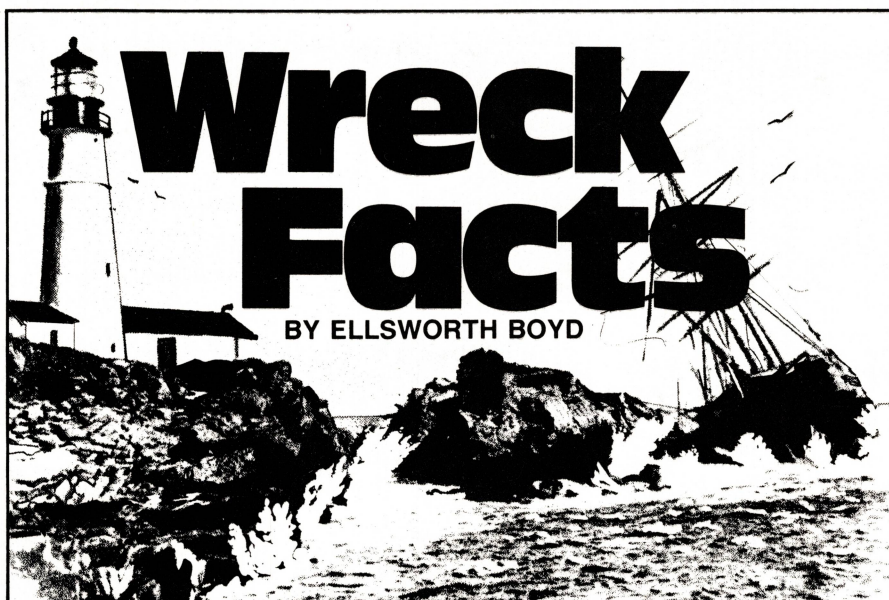
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I knew there were wreck divers out there, but I didn't realize there were so many. Letters have been pouring in from all over the United States, Canada and three foreign countries. I'll try to answer all of them, either in this column or individually, but please be patient.

There is exciting news from Stuart Brooks, Winter Park, Florida, who represents the underwater salvage company, Spectrum Ocean Services. Stuart and his colleagues have located the *Republic* (discussed in Wreck Facts, Nov. '82) and have begun salvage efforts on her. The 15,000 ton White Star ocean liner sank in 1909 off Nantucket, Massachusetts, and was purported to have a payroll of \$3 million in American \$10 gold pieces locked in her vaults.

Stuart writes: "Our company has received permission to salvage the *Republic* from J.A. Sinnott, chairman of Marine Archaeological Resources, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Research on the vessel required a considerable amount of time, effort and capital because the White Star Line was amalgamated with the Cunard Line in 1934. In order to research Cunard's records we had to fly to the University of Liverpool in England, where Michael Cook—head of archives—helped us enormously.

"Our research also took us to Belfast, Ireland where the vessel was built in 1903 for the Dominion Line. She was christened the *Columbus* and later became the *Republic* when White Star took over the Dominion Line. We gathered additional information from the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the United States Coast Guard."

Stuart Brooks and Spectrum Ocean Services have set an excellent example for shipwreck divers through their diligent inquiry and systematic investigation. This kind of thorough fact finding and scrutiny of records is the only way to pursue "the

big one." I will keep readers posted on their progress.

Rodney Santini of Evansville, Indiana, is a historian of World War II, with special interest in German U-boats. He wants to know how many U-boats are sunk off the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico, and the address of the German archives. He would also like to know about the U-boat that is purported to be drifting between Mobile Bay and Tampa Bay.

The following U-boats are sunk off the East and Gulf Coasts: U-857, 215, 853, 550, 576, 352, 2513, 166 and 85. Here is a book, Rodney, that will help you in your research: *60 Jahre Deutsche U-Boote—1906 to 1966* (60 Years of German U-boats) by Bodo Herzog, published by J.F. Seemanns Verlag, Munich, West Germany, 1968. Some of the best German archives are kept in the German Maritime Museum: Deutsches Schifffahrts Museum, D-2850 Bremer Haven, West Germany. As for that drifting sub, Rodney, I'm afraid it is entering the legendary realm of the Lock Ness Monster and the Serpent of the Chesapeake Bay. It is supposed to be discharging a trail of mercury while drifting in the gulf. Like UFO's, there have been sightings, but no concrete evidence of the sub has surfaced.

John Wajdula of Ludlow, Massachusetts, would like to find some books that would help him research wrecks off the New England coast. A recent book, John, is: *In Search of Shipwrecks*, by Jim Jenney, A.S. Barnes Company, 1980. This lists wrecks off New England and New York and tells readers how to research, find and identify a sunken ship. Jenney was writing two more books: *Shipwrecks of New England: Their Lure and Lore*, and *Diver's Guide to Rhode Island*. You might write to him and see if these books are out yet. His address is: P.O. Box 144, Saunterstown, Rhode Island 02874. If you have time, visit the Peabody Muse-

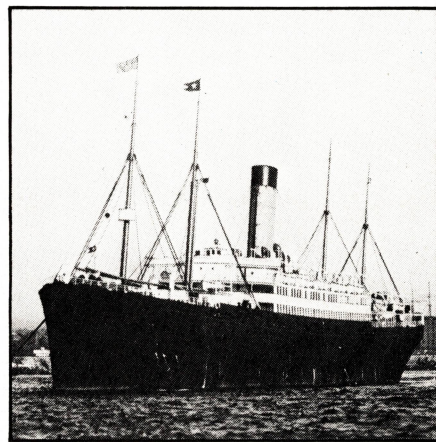
um, Salem, Massachusetts and Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Connecticut. Both have outstanding archives of marine disasters.

Another New England wreck book is: *Ten Years at Ten Fathoms*, by B.W. Luther. Perhaps you have heard of Edward Rowe Snow, a famous New England author who died two years ago. He wrote *Storms and Shipwrecks of New England* and *Flying Santa*. The latter, a book for lighthouse buffs, tells about Snow's exploits in the early days, flying over lighthouses and dropping Christmas packages to the lighthouse keepers.

Bob Hitchman of Highland, CA, writes: "I've seen books about shipwrecks on the Great Lakes and off the coasts of New Jersey, New York and North Carolina, but where are the books on wrecks off the California coast?"

Bob, you'll find some California wrecks in Bruce D. Berman's book: *Encyclopedia of American Shipwrecks*, and in James A. Gibbs' book: *Shipwrecks of the Pacific Coast*. You can also check with the U.S. Coast Guard in your area and see if they have any coast and geodetic survey charts of shipwrecks. I suggest you write to: Mike Weiner, President, Wreck Charts, 11 Creek Bend Drive, Fairport, New York 14450. He has some charts showing California wrecks. You might also write or call the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo.

Ken Fountain of Watertown, Tennessee, wants to obtain a book on ships that have sunk off United States coastlines.

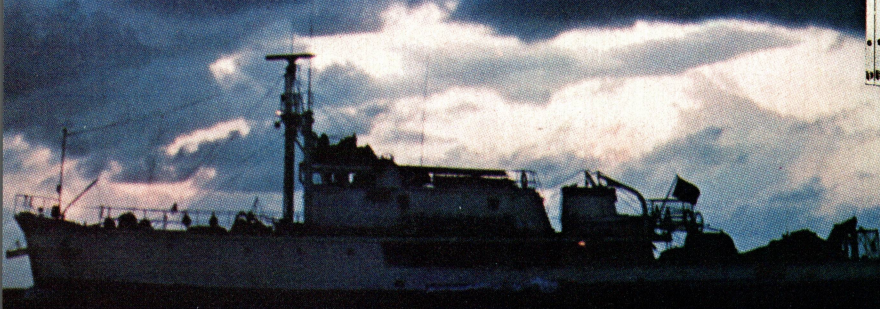


The Republic

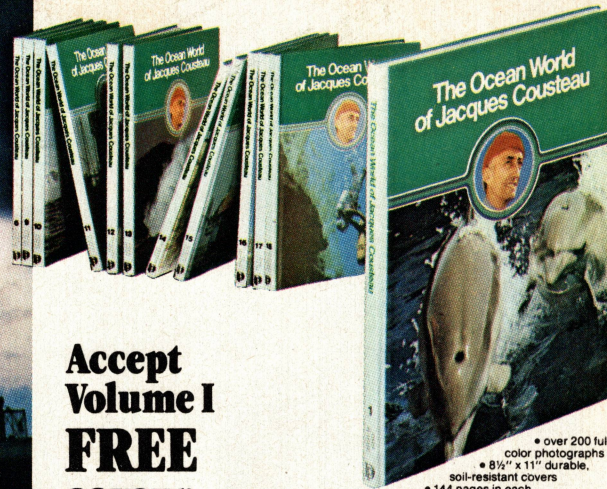
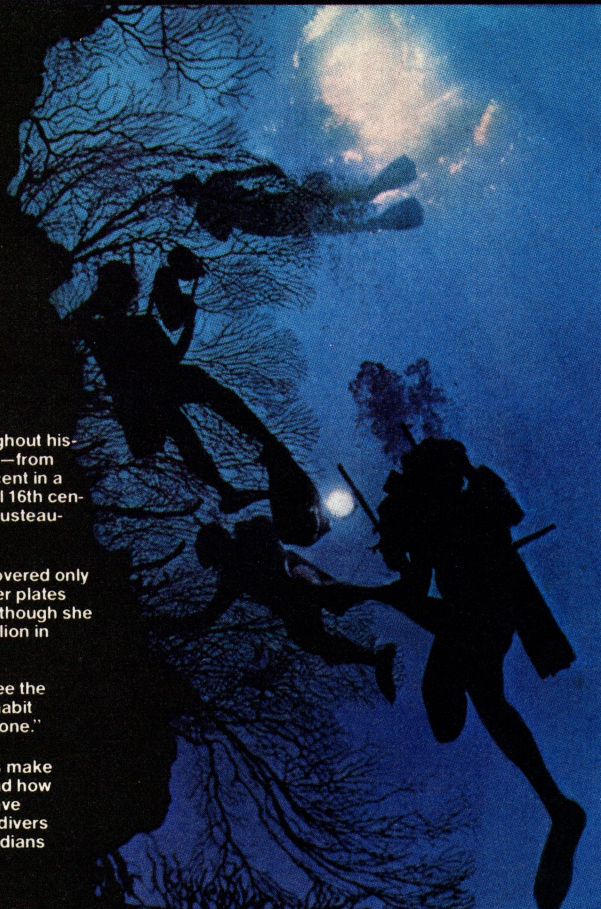
Ken, I would begin with Berman's book that I just mentioned. There is also *A Guide to Sunken Ships in American Waters* by Kaplan and Lonsdale. Bob Hitchman might try this one too because it covers Maine to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Coast as well. There's a nice little book that will help you: *A Primer of Shipwreck Research and Records for Skin Divers* by Robert M. Fleming.

That's all the Wreck Facts for now. Next time I'll have a lot of information for Great Lakes, New Jersey, North Carolina and California enthusiasts. You may write to me at: Rt. 2, Box 408, White Hall, Maryland 21161. 🐙

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If the Oceans of Earth should die—it would be the final catastrophe in the story of man and of all life on this planet...maybe fifty years later the last man on earth would take his own last breath. Why imagine such a nightmare about the subject I love most? Because the Ocean can die—and we must make sure that it doesn't. Man exists only because Earth is a "water planet"—liquid water being probably as rare in the universe as life, perhaps even synonymous with life. The Ocean is life. This is why we must change our attitude toward the Ocean. We must regard it as no longer a mystery, a menace, a dark and sinister abode of secrets and wonders. Instead we want to explore how it moves and breathes, how it experiences dramas and seasons, how it nourishes its hosts of living things, how it harmonizes the physical and biological rhythms of the whole earth, what hurts it and what feeds it—not least of all, what are its stories.



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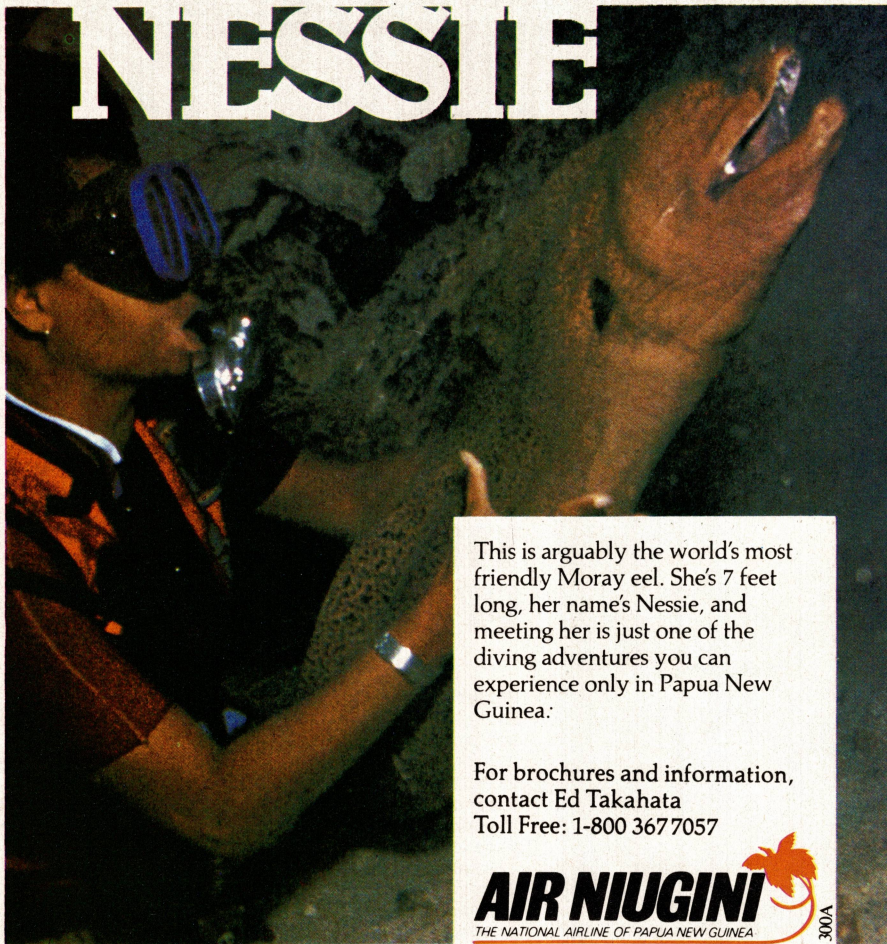
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CANNABIS CRUISER

(Continued from Page 5)

about six people at a time, but with experienced divers, may take 12 or more. Bottom time is restricted to 20 minutes with the maximum depth at 110 feet. I've been on the wreck six times now and it is a very straightforward dive. Buddy drops the anchor next to the wreck, we descend the anchor line and proceed directly to the wreck. Twenty minutes is ample time to thoroughly explore it.

The holds are still filled with the marijuana bales and because of the possible legal problems of bringing divers to the boat, Buddy was quick to consult the Coast Guard. They dove the wreck with Buddy and were convinced the ruined pot couldn't hurt anyone. Besides, the divers were always running their fingers through the bales, tossing the pot to the currents. In effect, offloading the marijuana as efficiently as the Coast Guard could with less manpower expenditure. Since no pot or souvenirs of any kind are allowed back on the dive boat, the legal position is one of indifference. Before too long, the pot will be all gone but the wreck will still be fascinating.

Besides the marvelous wide angle photos possible owing to the graphic shapes and colorful encrustation throughout the wreck, there are excellent opportunities for fish and macro photographs on any dive. The jewfish is becoming acclimated to divers and should be trained to perform for the camera soon. There are a pair of resident gray angels, Cuban hogfish, glass minnows, and massive numbers of miscellaneous baitfish. Several species of grouper are regularly spotted, as well as snapper and jack. For the macro enthusiast this wreck is really fantastic. There are spiny oysters, anemones, multi-colored sponges, scallops, tube worms, hydroids and exquisite soft corals.

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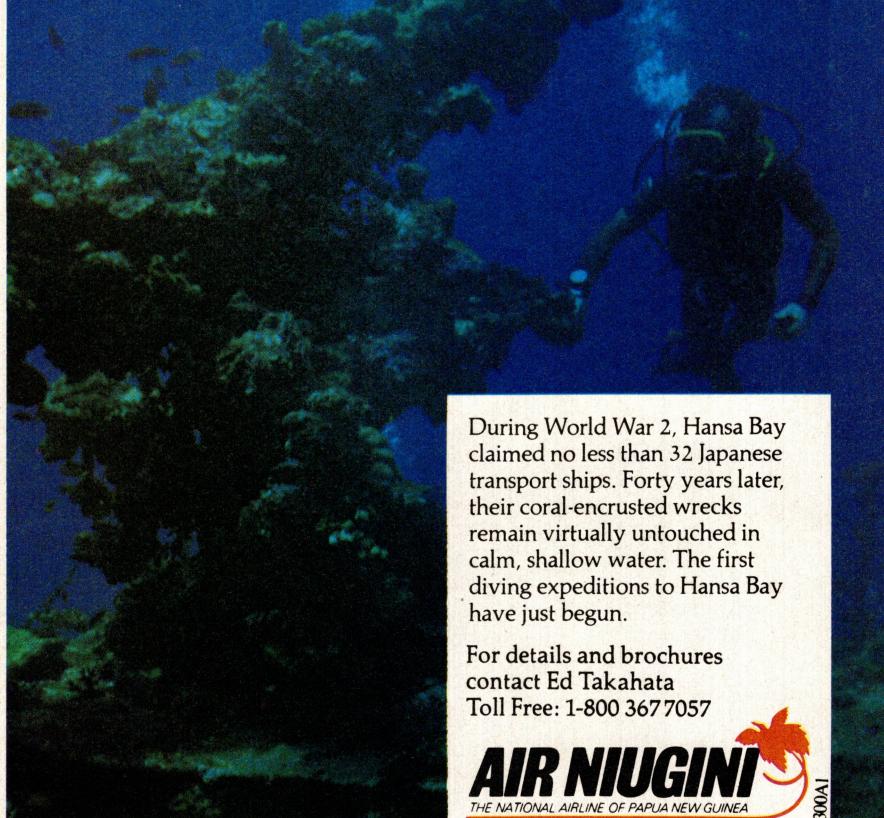
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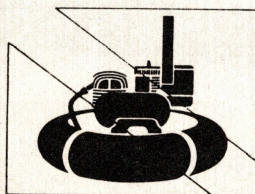
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Diver's Calendar

April 8-10 Second Annual Florida Institute of Technology Sport Divers Association Underwater Backgammon Marathon. 50 continuous hours. Proceeds donated to a charitable organization. (Contact: FIT Sport Divers Association, Melbourne, FL 32901)

April 9 National Association for Cave Diving Spring '83 Seminar, Tallahassee, FL. Workshop topics will include geology of the Southeast and air medevac programs in the U.S. (contact NACD, P.O. Box 14492, Gainesville FL 32604)

April 17 (New Date) New England Divers 10th Annual Equipment Expo. Manufacturer exhibits, speakers, movies and door prizes. (Contact: New England Divers, 131 Rantoul St., Beverly, MA 01915)

April 23 The First Annual Mid-Atlantic Treasure Hunt. Presented by Divers Inc. of Richmond, VA. \$2,000 in scuba gear and prizes will be awarded. (Contact: Herman Randolph, 5212 Antigo Road, Richmond, VA 23223)

April 23 Thirty-second Underwater Film Review. John Hancock Hall, Boston, MA. (Contact: Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, Massachusetts 02117)

April 23 Seventeenth Annual Underwater Symposium. Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. (Contact: Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, Massachusetts 02117)

April 30 Seaview 83—St. Louis Film Festival. Stan Waterman and Rick Frehsee keynote speakers. (Contact: Seaview 83, St. Louis PADI Training Facilities Association, P.O. Box 10221, Lambert Field, St. Louis, MO 63145)

April 30 Sea State '83 Scuba Symposium, sponsored by the Tide Riders Scuba Club. Lincoln Hall Auditorium, Portland State University, Portland OR. Tickets \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. (Contact: Sea State '83 Tickets, Tide Riders Scuba Club, P.O. Box 774, Tualatin, Oregon 97062)

May 1 Third Annual Divers Day, General Dynamics Missile Park, San Diego, CA. Movies, lectures and new and antique gear show and sale. (Contact: Gene Gunn (619) 277-8900 X2420)

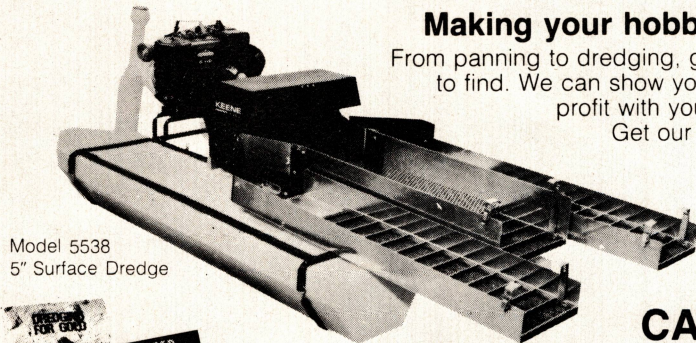
May 6-8 Our World-Underwater XIII film festival, Hotel Continental (formerly the Radisson-Chicago), and the Medinah Temple, Chicago, IL. Films, slides, lectures, diving developments, parties and more. (Contact: Our World-Underwater, P.O. Box 4428, Chicago, IL 60680)

May 15 Scuba Divers Swap Meet, sponsored by the Southwestern Connecticut Skin Divers Inc. (SE-CONN). No admission, open to the public, and dealers welcome. At the Montville American Polish Club, Montville, CT. (Contact: Brian Johnson (203) 599-3484)

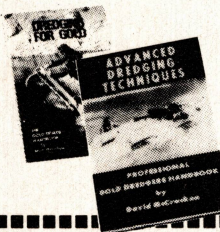
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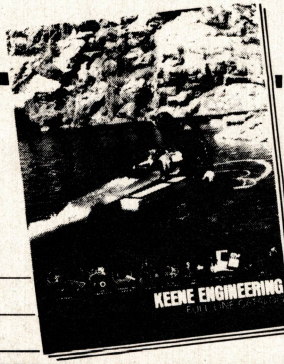


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**RIGHT FROM THE
START SEE THE DIVER'S
DIRECTORY IN THIS ISSUE**



Film Festivals 'n Symposiums

SEA EXPO 83

The Sea Expo '83 film festival will be held on May 21 at the Neighbors of Woodcraft Auditorium in Portland, Oregon, 7:00-10:00 pm. Jack McKenney will be the master of ceremonies and will show his films, *The Emerald Sea*, and *The Devilfish of el Bajo*. Jack and Sue Drafahl and local underwater photographers will present slide shows.

A door prize of a week's diving in San Salvador, Bahamas will be awarded.

For information contact Jack and Sue Drafahl, P.O. Box 88, Hillsboro, OR 97123. ✉

OUR WORLD-U/W XIII

Celebrating its 13th year, Our World-Underwater will be held at the Hotel Continental (formerly the Radisson Chicago) on May 6, 7, and 8. This year's show will be expanded to two floors and will include 90 exhibit booths. The very latest developments in dive equipment will be featured plus dive and photographic techniques, certification programs, bottle collections, artifacts, etc. There will be continuous color slides and movies and travel information for divers and non-divers. There will be a cocktail party on Friday in the exhibit area, where key speakers will answer questions and share their dive experiences. The first decompression stop splash party will take place in the olympic-sized pool on the 16th floor, beginning at 10:30 pm.

The seminars begin concurrently on Saturday at 9:00 am in five rooms, each capable of handling 500 people.

Saturday at 5:00 pm the Scholarship Banquet will be held, and the scholarship committee will present the annual \$5,000 award to this year's winner. Julie Johnson and Ben Sheldon, 1982 recipients, will share their experiences.

Within walking distance, the Medinah Temple, 600 North Wabash Avenue, will house the Saturday night Underwater Film Festival. Dr. Sylvia Earle will be on hand as will other personalities such as Glen Egstrom, Dennis Graver, Bruce Hootman, Dick Jacoby, Jack McKenney, Dave Trotter, Lynn Funkhouser, Rick Frehsee, Ron and Camille Stephensen, Dee Scarr and others. The program will run from 8:00 to 10:30 pm. The public is invited. After the show at the Medinah Temple, it's back to the Hotel Continental for dancing and refreshments. Sunday 10:00-1:00 pm you can learn how to collect, preserve, cook, restore and photograph your favorite subjects.

For information contact Our World-Underwater, P.O. Box 4428, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 539-4644. ✉

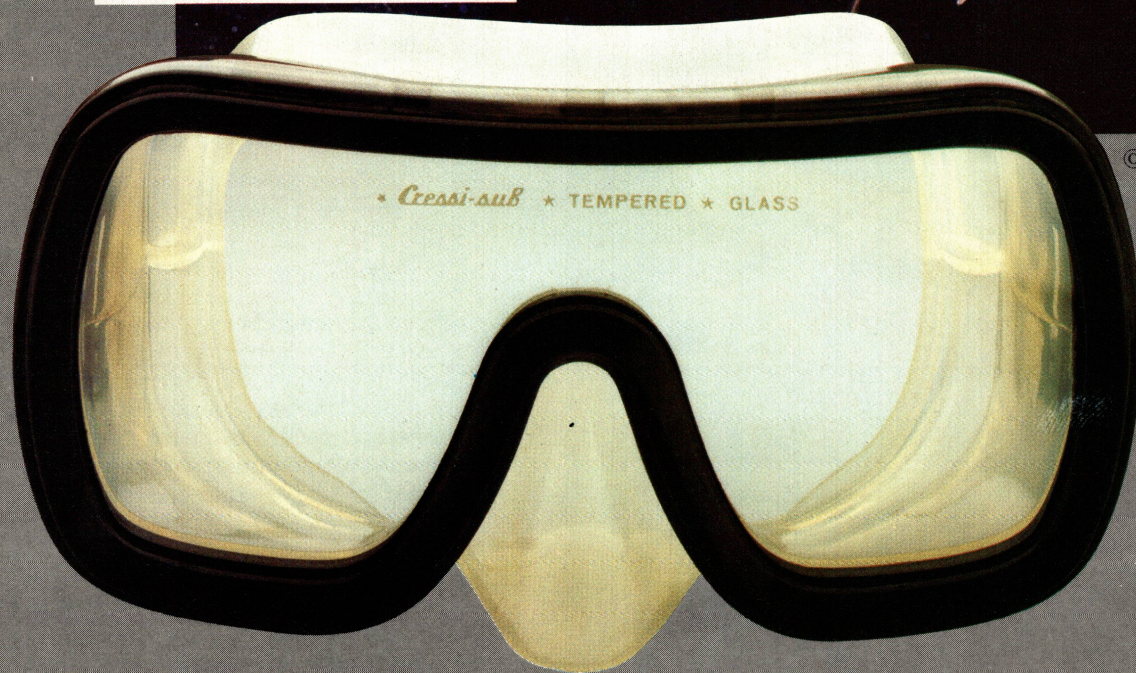
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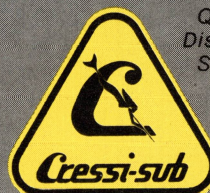


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SEAWEEDUS ZIPPERATUS

BY DICK ANDERSON

California divers have always been pestered by the kelp fly (scientific name: *Seaweedus zipperatus*). These pesky critters land on you and mosey around with blatant indifference. There's nothing like a kelp fly wandering up your nostril to jar you from a peaceful snooze on the afterdeck. And, once a kelp fly has taken a liking to you, he'll pester you to death. Your only recourse is to kill the little.... You swat and miss. Kelp flies are fast and attuned to a life of survival.

But, there's hope in education and enlightenment. The kelp fly can be conquered. Informal studies have demonstrated that, by and large, divers are more intelligent than the kelp fly. I'm sure I'm more intelligent than the average kelp fly, and many other divers would probably rank way up there, too. So, all it takes is brains and a little understanding of the problem.

I never really thought too much about the kelp fly until my friend, Al Hanson, clued me in on their specialties. Hanson is well suited to discourse on the kelp fly. He's been a diver and seaman for 50 years or so. He began as an abalone diver out of Morro Bay in the days when ter-

ritorial disputes among rival dive groups were arbitrated by Mr. Winchester. Al also has the distinction of having spent more time underwater than anyone else; an accumulated diving time of several years. If it has anything to do with the sea, Al has been exposed to it.

Anyway, Al told me about the time he and his brother, Harold, were taking a galley break while anchored near a kelp bed. You guessed it; a pesky kelp fly took an acute interest in Al's salami sandwich and Harold's left nostril. This winged varmint didn't know whether he wanted to eat salami or explore nostrils. Kelp flies are fast but not too bright.

Now, here's the part that's really interesting. Al explained that if you want to swat a kelp fly when he lands on you, all you have to do is blow on him. The fly thinks he's caught in a hurricane and hangs on for dear life. Then you swat. The fly simply isn't smart enough to hang on and let go at the same time. His limited intellect is overwhelmed by the complexity of the issues. Extensive studies, (government funded) have shown conclusively that a kelp fly does not even have the capacity to chew gum and rollerskate at the same time. That's the secret; know your adversary.

Normally, a brilliant disclosure like this would end a story, but Al Hanson told me even more. Al easily outsmarted the fly that was bugging him and his brother. Blow and swat! The flattened fly fell to the

table top in a heap. Outgassing divers seem to have a chronic shortage of entertainment so Al and Harold sat there and observed the beat-up bug. It did not know it was dead. First, there was a faint twitch of a leg. Then, a barely discernible rustle of a crumpled wing. Very slowly the prostrate kelp fly checked each appendage with damage control. Then, one leg straightened out and flexed a few times. Then that leg reached back and ironed the kinks out of another leg.

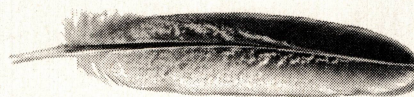
With two legs in reasonably good working order the fallen fly doubled his efforts. He reached around and worked the kinks out of his other limbs. In a couple minutes he was standing; wobbly but standing. He took a few cautious steps to test his coordination. So far, so good. Then, with the ease of a contortionist, he reached up and stroked his crumpled wings back into air-worthy symmetry. He buzzed for a second or two in pre-flight warm-up and took off.

Did this resurrected bug have the sense to head for the exit? No, he wanted to get one last look at Harold's nostril. He was lucky. That last swat hurt Harold much more than it hurt the nosy fly. Propelled across the galley by Harold's attempt at over-kill, the foolish fly finally got smart and took off in the direction of another ab boat anchored about a mile away. He was only hitting on three cylinders and it is not known for sure if he made it. 

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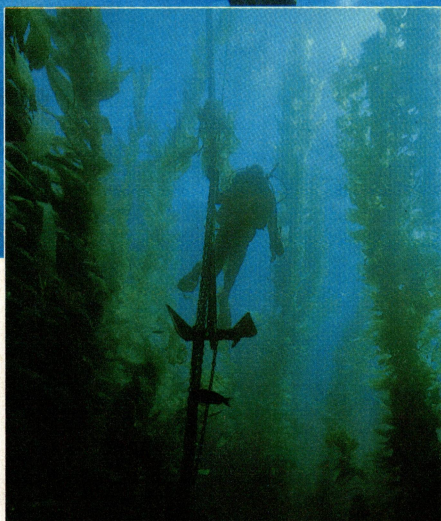
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SS-256

photo/Geri Murphy

photo/Bonnie J. Cardone



Light Salvage

BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Finding treasure underwater is probably a dream most divers share, but the dream goes mostly unrealized. However, if you don't insist upon setting your sights on Spanish galleons, you can find "treasure" in almost any lake, ocean or quarry—in the form of lost dive and boat equipment or perhaps portholes and artifacts from shipwrecks. If you can become adept at recovering these objects, you may not become rich, but you might add a little to your disposable income.

For the purposes of this article, we will define light salvage as referring to items of less than 200 pounds in weight. Lifting almost anything that weighs more than 10 pounds underwater will usually require a lift bag; the techniques and equipment discussed here will certainly apply.

Divers and boaters are always losing equipment. Few divers think to mark such things as knives, weightbelts and lights so that if found they could be returned. Non-diving boaters lose all sorts of things overboard—the diversity of these items is astonishing. The most valuable things they consistently lose are anchors. Because these are not damaged by being underwater they are also great items to salvage and easy to retrieve with the right equipment. And, there is also quite a market for them.

EQUIPMENT

The two most valuable items a diver intent upon light salvage should own are a marker buoy and a lift bag.

A marker buoy can be one you make

yourself from inexpensive materials: All that is needed is something that floats attached with a certain length of line to something that sinks and will stay in place on the bottom (or can be tied to the salvage item). The illustrations that accompany this article will give you some ideas. Marker buoys are also sold by Pelican Products, Aqua-Craft, Dacor, Cressi-sub and J.W. Automarine.

You can make your own lift bag, but in our opinion the commercially available ones are better, mostly because they are very sturdy and have overpressure relief and/or dump valves. If you're really serious about salvaging you'll need lift bags in several different sizes. Many dive equipment companies (Aqua-Craft, Dacor, Global Mfg., Seatec) sell small lift

bags. Larger bags are sold by American Radhial, Carter Bag, J.W. Automarine, Allez-Oop and Subsalve U.S.A. In a pinch, however, a game bag with a large plastic trash bag inside; an old inner tube with one side cut off; or any semi-waterproof bag that will hold air underwater will do.

Before you go out looking for something to salvage make sure you also know how to construct at least two kinds of knots. If you cannot tie even a simple knot that will hold, your chances of salvaging success are dim. So, get out your old Boy Scout manual, borrow a book from the library, or ask a fisherman, boat deckhand or skipper to teach you a couple of knots. They're fairly easy to learn and once you can tie a few you'll wonder how you ever managed to get through life without them.

ACTUAL SALVAGE

Once you're equipped, how do you go about finding something to salvage? The old adage about being in the right place at the right time applies here—luck plays an important role. Most divers simply stumble upon the items they end up salvaging. It helps to dive in areas frequented by other divers, fishermen and boaters. Areas used by certification classes are good prospects. (If you are a new diver, be sure to mark your equipment so you don't contribute to another diver's gear bag!) Moorings are good areas to search as well.

Let's follow the actual salvage of an item so you can see how it's done: In this case the salvor is my friend Ed and the item is the seventh anchor he's found and retrieved in the last six months. The anchor weighs about 100 pounds and has another 60 pounds of chain attached to it. Ed finds it in 90 feet of water. Since it's too big to bring to the surface with the small lift bag he always carries, Ed ties his marker buoy to the anchor, then returns to the boat and brings back his heavy duty lift bag. First, he makes as compact a package as possible out of the anchor and its chain, then he attaches the line from the anchor to the lift bag with a bowline knot. (Most anchors are conveniently lost with some line attached to the chain. It doesn't hurt, however, to carry three to four feet of sturdy nylon line, just in case there is none.) Ed knows he has plenty of air, so he inserts his octopus regulator into the base of the bag and pushes the purge button to let short bursts of air into the bag. He stops when the bag begins to rise off the bottom. Remember, air expands as it rises and you don't want the bag to rocket to the surface uncontrolled. If it does, it is very likely to tip over, spilling the air out and sending the salvage item back to the bottom. The bag should lift slowly off the bottom and just as slowly rise to the surface. Use

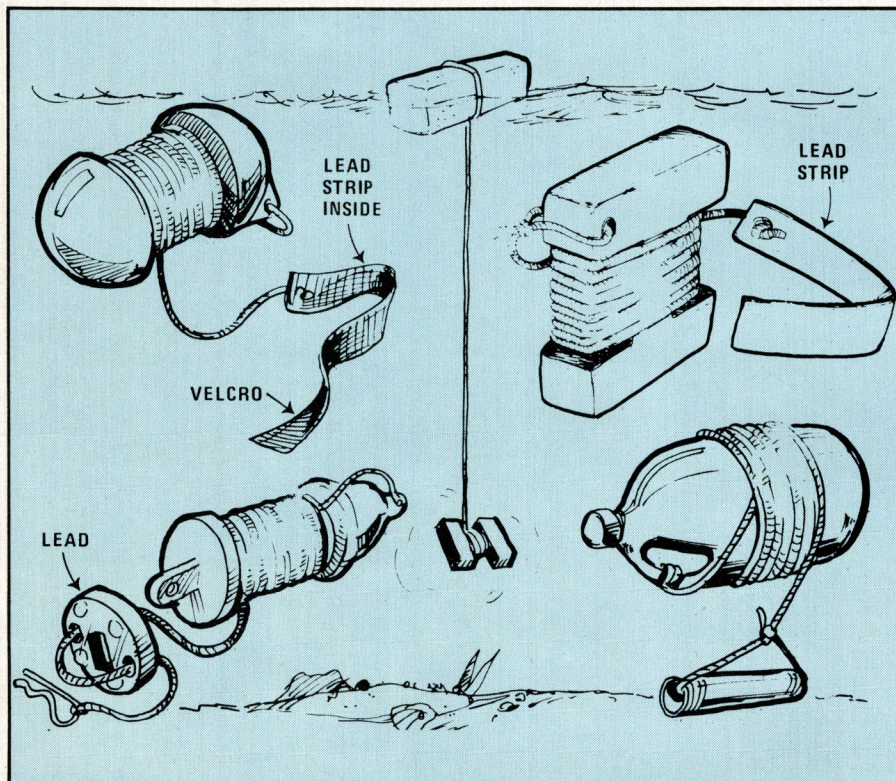
the dump valve to control the bag's ascent. Remember to stay out from under the item and make sure that neither you nor your equipment gets tangled on it.

Once you have the bag on the surface, half of your work is done. Now you only need to get the item back to the boat. If you are in California waters and there's lots of kelp, it may be easier for the boat to come to you. Otherwise, swim slowly back to the boat pushing or towing the lift bag. You will usually be just below the surface, so allow enough air for this purpose. Make sure someone (or several someones) is available to help you bring your salvage object aboard.

an overpressure relief and a dump valve to vent air.

SELLING SALVAGED ITEMS

What do you do with it once you've salvaged it? Dive gear can be sold through dive club newsletters and newspaper ads. If you keep finding anchors, like Ed, you can leave them on consignment at used marine goods yards. You share the proceeds with the yard when the anchor is sold. Anchors in particular are in great demand—sell them to your non-diving boating friends who are always losing them! Also, you can always sell your metal items for scrap metal. Since I am the



When you find something to salvage you need to mark it so you can return with the proper equipment. Buy or make your own marker buoy and carry it on every dive.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Although it may be very tempting, do not use your BC as a lifting device while you are wearing it. Should the salvage item fall from your grasp, you could go rocketing dangerously fast toward the surface. I wear a small horsecollar BC which is designed to lift me and not much else. In fact, it will not lift me and all my gear along with any object that weighs more than ten pounds. Thus, I am not tempted to lift much other than a fairly full game bag. Unless you wear a very large capacity BC, you will soon discover that this is not much of a temptation for you, either. BC's that are not being worn can be and often are used as lift bags. You can inflate them orally. They should have

owner of several items of dive gear that are presumed lost in a watery grave, I would urge you to try to return anything bearing identification. Otherwise, finders keepers, losers weepers!

MORE INFORMATION

Now that you think you know all there is to know about light salvage, take Dennis Graver's Scuba Quiz on the same subject in this issue. The *PADI Advanced Dive Manual* has a good article on salvage. The illustration which accompanies this article was reproduced from this excellent book. And, if you really want to get into the subject, think about taking an advanced specialty course in search and recovery from one of the national certification agencies. 

When it comes to great taste,
everyone draws the same conclusion.



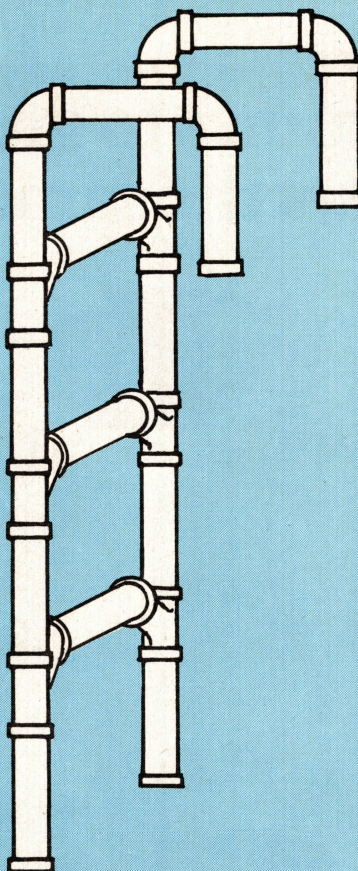
E-Z BUILD BOAT LADDER

BY CLIFF JOHNSON

Ever try to get up on a swim platform in rough water with all your equipment on after a tiring dive? Ever have a buddy use one of your boat's trim tabs as a ladder rung? Ever stand on a swim platform, remove your weightbelt and watch helplessly as it slides off and disappears into the depths? If your boat is any type other than an inflatable, it probably needs a ladder.

Here is a really simple-to-build ladder that makes climbing into any mid-size boat a snap. It's strong, light, won't damage your boat, and will last practically forever. ABS plastic is well known to plumbers, and has replaced cast iron pipe in building construction. You must use ABS and not PVC because ABS will withstand temperature change to a greater degree.

The ladder for my 21 foot boat is about six feet tall, 15 inches wide, floats, cost me \$33 and took about one-half hour to build. The ABS pipe is schedule 40 (which means it's very strong) and I used



two inch size (inside diameter, which is 2 1/4 inch outside diameter) to make it even stronger. I had the plumbing shop cut the

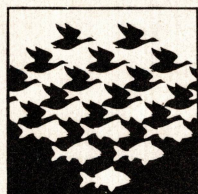
pipe (they didn't charge for this service) and this decreased construction time considerably. Do not use a hacksaw if you do the cutting yourself or you will have difficulty making the ends square and end up with different lengths of pipe. Connections are made by applying ABS cement to both ends to be joined with a brush, and twisting the pieces together.

Construction: Put down newspaper on any flat surface and go to work. You have about 30 seconds once contact is made before the joint is permanently stuck. Once the joint is made, you cannot undo it, so it is important to follow a definite plan of assembly.

Start with the rungs and join the T's on each end, then join the two sides (vertical), then add another rung with T's in place and continue. If the fittings lie on a flat surface, the joints align perfectly parallel with no problems. Do *not* do an entire side of the ladder and then the other, or you will have to "goop up" six or seven joints at once and join them in 30 seconds. I had all the rungs and sides cut to eight inches, which makes the openings between rungs 12 inches high and 10 1/2 inches wide—large enough for any fin.

Materials list:

- 17, 8 inch lengths of 2 inch diameter ABS schedule 40 pipe
- 12, 2 inch diameter ABS T fittings
- 6, 2 inch L fittings
- 6 lengths of 2 inch diameter ABS pipe



Bauer Air- Pure Air



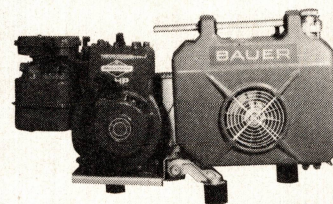
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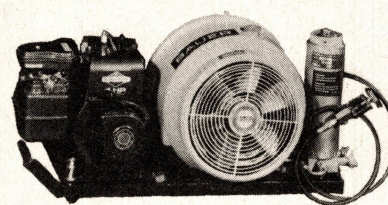
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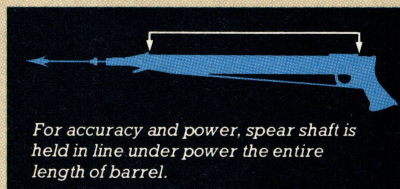
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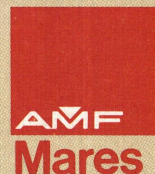
once loaded, just flip the switch and you're ready to fire at "high power".

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TREASURE SHIP LOCATED

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The *Republic* was a White Star Liner carrying approximately 400 passengers for a three month cruise in the Mediterranean, along with naval supplies consigned to the Great White Battleship Fleet at Gibraltar.

The collision, on the morning of January 23, 1909, with the steamship *Florida* resulted in the first use of the Marconi Telegraph for a distress signal at sea. Although most of the passengers were saved by the use of the wireless, the treasure was not so lucky.

The *Republic* is known to have had \$285,000 in jewels and personal valuables (today's value at \$3-5 million) on board at the time of sinking and, in addition, it is rumored to have had \$3 million in American gold pieces at a time when gold had a value of \$20 per ounce. This would place the current gold value at about \$70,000,000 with the coin value to possibly one-half billion dollars.

The wreck lies in 235 feet of water. A salvage claim has been filed and duly recorded and it is expected that the actual salvage will begin in August, lasting from four to six weeks. 

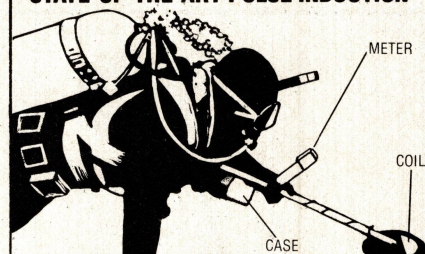
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Florida Classics Library of Port Salerno, Florida has reprinted and released a lower-priced, quality paperback edition of the originally titled *Gold, Galleons and Archaeology*, by Robert F. Burgess and Carl J. Clausen. The new book, complete with all maps, photographs and appendices of the original edition is titled: *Florida's Golden Galleons* (\$9.95 plus \$1 postage and handling).

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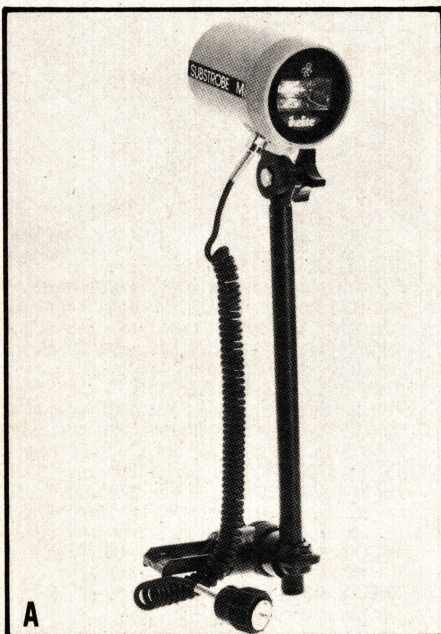
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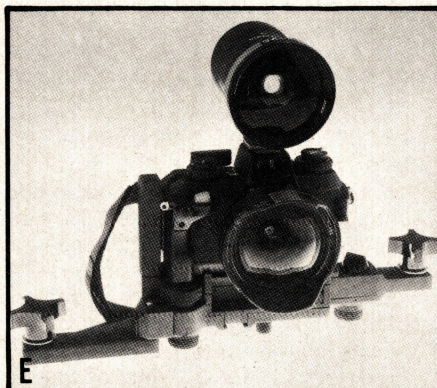
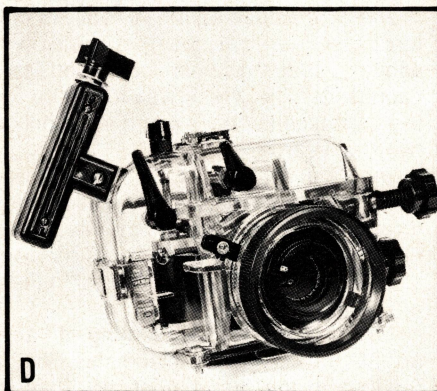
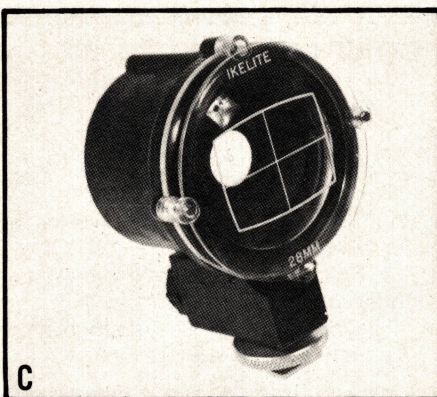


A — SUBSTROBE M & MA

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B — MINI C-LITE

Brightest of all the small flashlights and virtually indestructible. A rotating on/off switch allows easy one hand control. The intensity and compact size is delightful. An optional #1056 holster is available for mounting on strobes or any belt up to 2" wide. Mini C-Lite I produces 4-6 hours of light with four "C" cell alkaline batteries (not included). The Mini C-Lite II, includes a charger and ni-cad batteries producing about two hours of constant intensity between charges.



C — OPTICAL VIEWFINDER

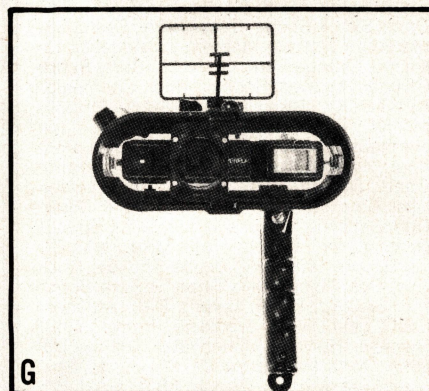
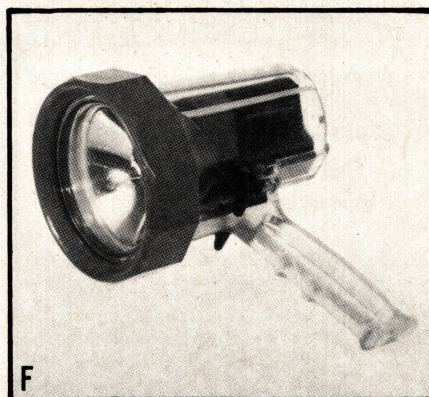
This simple, but accurate viewfinder offers fine optics, parallax correction, and masks for 50mm to ultra-wide lenses. The 20mm mask is ideal for use with the Nikonos 15mm lens.

D — IKELITE SLR CASE

The 35mm Single Lens Reflex camera is the most versatile system in the world both above and below water. Combined with the Ikelite SLR Case, they both offer through-the-lens viewing and focusing, no parallax problems, built-in meters, multi-shutter speed selection and interchangeable lenses at realistic costs.

E — ICS/NIKONOS IV CONNECTOR & HANDLE

The ICS/Connector Console is a combination connector and tray; includes a battery compartment, 3 strobe bulkheads, and accessory mounting points. The Handle provides a second strobe mounting point plus an adjustable sure grip strap for camera comfort and easy access to shutter and film advance controls.



F — IKELITE II

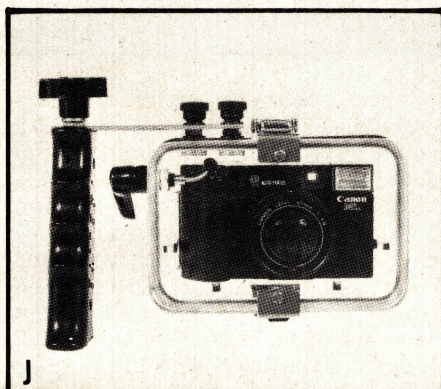
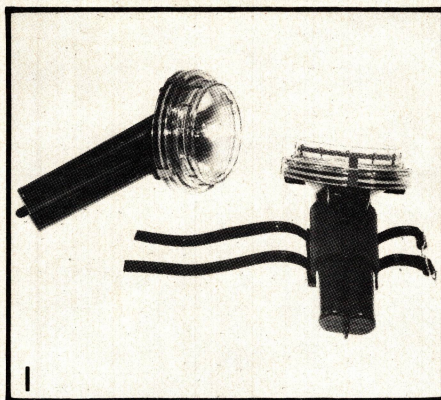
The total concept of this light is simplicity in design and trouble free performance. The Ikelite II features a unique on/off switch, switch lock, floats bulb up, and is guaranteed unbreakable. Available in a super bright rechargeable model.

G — TRIMCASE

Underwater photography has never been so simple and inexpensive. The Trimcase, Close-up Lens, and Sportsfinder allow the 110 photographer to get excellent underwater photographs. Cameras with built-in flash and motor winders are extremely simple and easy to use.

H — SUBSTROBE MS & STROBE HANDLE

Substrobe MS is a slave unit (no cord) with the features of the Substrobe M. The Strobe Handle is ideal for macro photography and can be carried on a lanyard or mounted to the Strobe Mount I or II.



I — C-LITE II

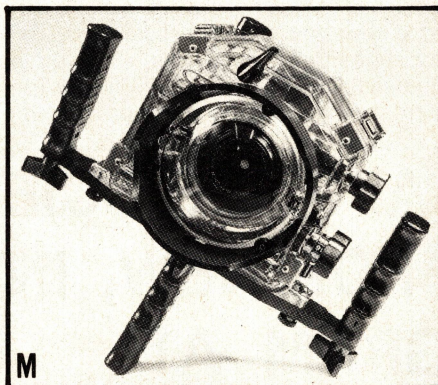
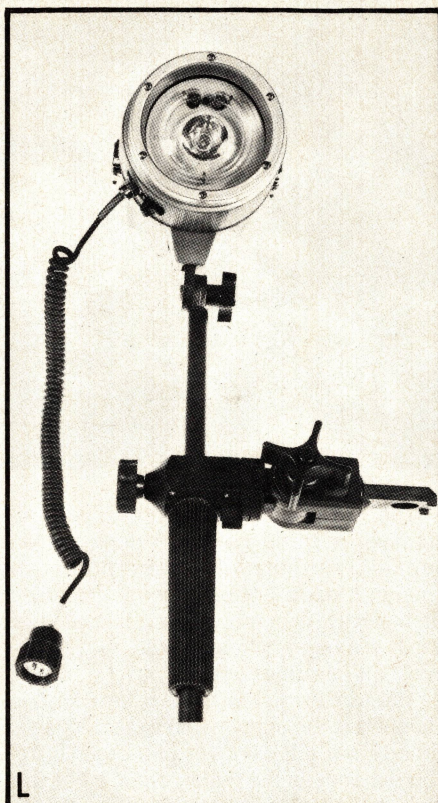
One of the brightest rechargeable lights in the diving industry. The special ni-cad batteries provide a constant intensity for about 1½ hrs. between charges. The compact size and unique shape is comfortable to hold or fits optional #1055 C-Lite Holster.

J — RANGEFINDER HOUSINGS

Rangefinder cameras can produce excellent underwater photographs almost automatically. Several camera models such as the Canon AF35ML include auto film load, auto focus, auto exposure, auto winder, built-in flash, and a quality lens.

K — MODULAR X LITE

The modular X Lite utilizes a powerful bulb and six "D" cell alkaline batteries to produce an intensity equal to most of the rechargeable lights. This inexpensive light offers all the unique features of the modular light series and can be converted to a Modular Superlite or Movielite.

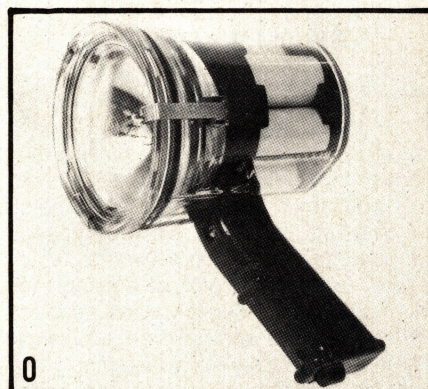


L — SUBSTROBE 150L & 150A

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RISE ABOVE IT ALL

Octopus Float Cover Puts Diver On Elevated Platform

BY JIM WALKER

The Octopus dive float cover, when combined with an 8.25 x 20 inch truck inner tube, makes a float with a difference—this one's designed to sit in! Thus, you not only have a float to hold your dive flag, provide a rest support and hold gear/game, but you have a portable platform for an instructor/divemaster as well. It allows the user to control surface traffic at the dive site from an elevated, easy to see (and see from) position.

Inflated, the Octopus measures three and one-half feet across, and the tube diameter is about ten inches in front and 11 in back. The larger diameter in the back provides more flotation where most of the user's weight is.

The cover is constructed of tough, attractive, red and gold 400 denier nylon fabric. The material is waterproof, although it need not be. Seams are sewn with sturdy, waterproof thread, double or triple stitched at stress points. All zippers are non-corroding plastic.

The feature which makes the Octopus different is the suspension seat. It is fashioned from a triple layer of the same nylon material as the cover, cut in what can only be described as the shape of the back half of a pair of swim trunks. Adjustable nylon web straps crisscross the seat for support and radiate out, attaching to five snap-in Delrin buckles which are in turn attached to the float cover by nylon

webbing. The user's legs easily slip between these straps, allowing him/her to propel the float (with surprising ease) in any direction, when wearing dive fins.

Unsnapping one or two of the seat buckles allows the user to drop through the bottom of the float quickly when necessary. Similarly, the float can also be entered from the bottom when in the water. The base of the seat has a large D-ring, to which an anchor line can be attached.

Sewn to the top of the Octopus cover are three zippered pockets. Two of these (6 x 5 x 15 inches) serve as storage compartments. Optional liners (\$22 each) are available. These are made of nylon two

(Continued on Page 54)



photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE NOW OFFERED FOR NEW, INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM AT COMMERCIAL DIVING CENTER, LOS ANGELES.

COMMERCIAL DIVING CENTER OF LOS ANGELES announces the recent accreditation of their diver training program. The Center now offers an ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE to all students who successfully complete their programs. This Associate of Applied Science (A.S.) Degree program has been authorized by the State of California Department of Education, the same agency that authorizes all associate degree programs for junior and community colleges throughout the state. Accreditation is a system for recognizing institutions with the highest levels of quality, integrity and performance in the areas they serve.

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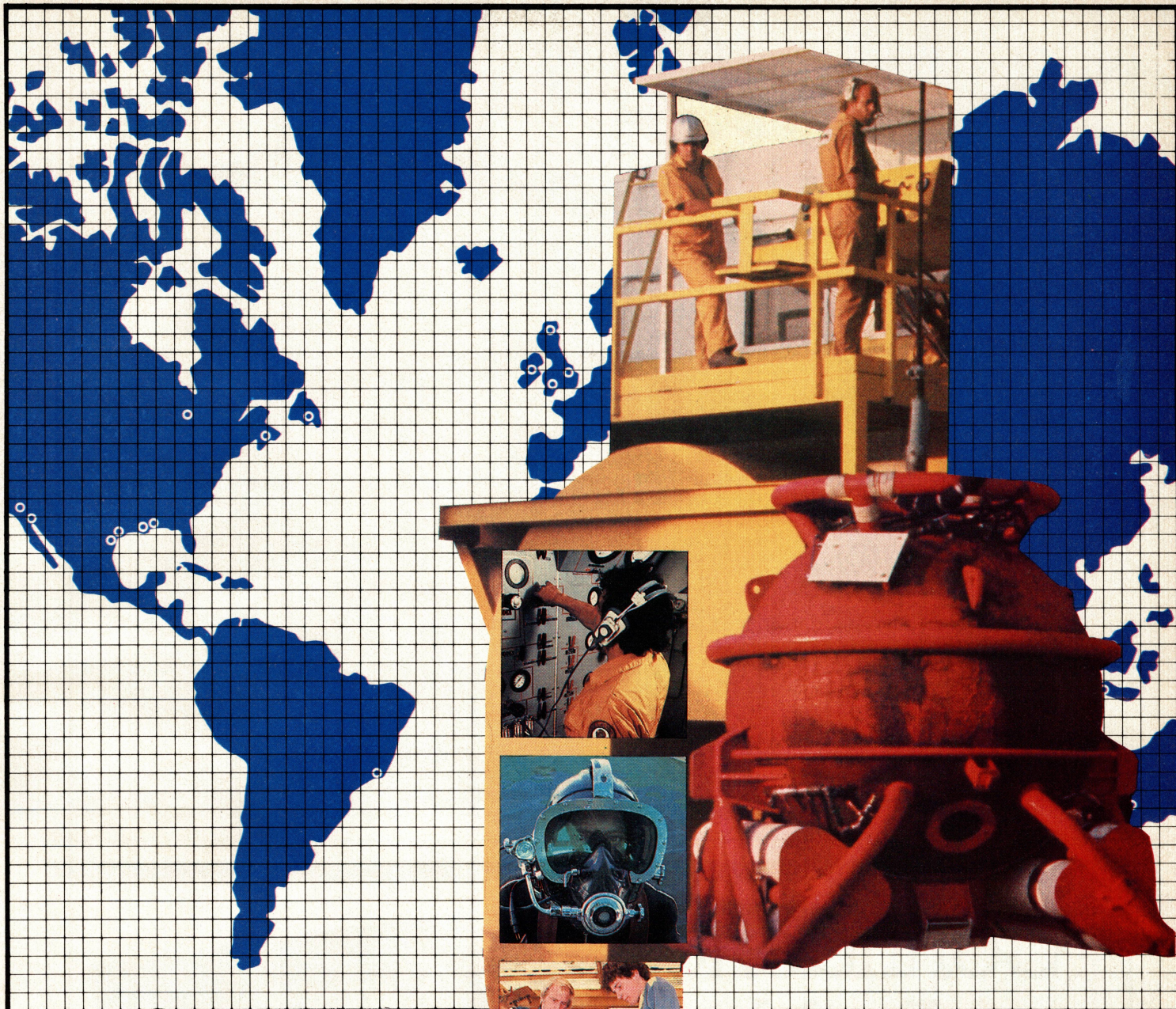
DIVING CENTER will find an intensive, concentrated course of study. In six months, the student can complete the same program that takes two years in most other colleges. This enables the student to achieve career goals sooner, while ensuring that he meets the highest requirements for classroom hours and hands-on experience.

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require diver training that is constantly upgraded and revised. Commercial Diving Center meets these needs by routinely refining and amplifying the diver training program for the Associate of Applied Science Degree. An A.S. Degree from Commercial Diving Center will signify to anyone in the industry that the graduating diver is prepared to meet the challenges of rapidly expanding technology, ever deeper dives, and increasingly sophisticated procedures.

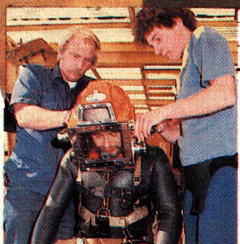
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Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



The basic purpose of this column is to stimulate an interest in the technical aspects of diving and dive safety. It will be devoted to providing factual answers to questions from SKIN DIVER readers. Answers will be designed to apply to the majority of situations, problems and equipment encountered today.

The comments, questions, and suggestions received from Naomi Schneider, Gisborne, New Zealand; Alan Stoller, Green Bay, WI; and Chris Norton, Ulster, PA are appreciated.

SAFETY AND THE DIVING CYLINDER

The use, for diving, of air cylinders of various sorts and sizes predates what most divers consider the "birth of diving" in the early 1950's. In the early 1800's divers depended on a low pressure/high volume cylinder of air as a source of breathing gas. There were no mechanical

air compressors and no air hoses to pump air to the diver. The next phase (after compressors were developed) was a closed circuit system that utilized a small, high pressure cylinder of oxygen. In this same era, military divers were using the high pressure cylinders from compressed air driven torpedoes (torpedo air flasks, as they were called) as a source for longer supplies of compressed air for helmet and early mask diving. In today's diving we have a proliferation of kinds and sizes of scuba cylinders variously called tanks, jugs, bottles or flasks. Regardless of when they are used, what they are called or what they are used for, compressed air cylinders all require a certain amount of inspection, care and testing to remain a safe item of dive equipment.

Divers are aware of the potential hazard of high pressure gases and have been since the earliest use of com-

pressed air cylinders. This is evident from letters received from Technifacts readers. Perhaps the most frequent concern in recent years has been the comparative quality and safety of steel versus aluminum cylinders.

ALUMINUM CYLINDERS

Aluminum has been used in cylinders for compressed breathing gas for a long time, mostly in fire and medical departments where cost was of secondary importance to size and weight. About 1970, Alcan Aluminum Corporation's Western Products Division began manufacturing aluminum cylinders for diving.

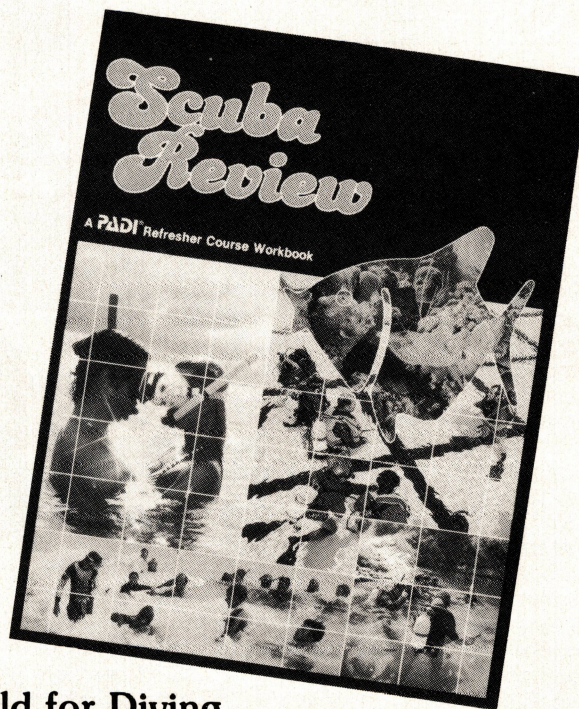
Aluminum is not as strong as steel; in fact it is only about half as strong. Because of this, aluminum cylinders must have twice the wall thickness as steel cylinders. But, aluminum is only one third as heavy as steel.

There are advantages in aluminum cyl-

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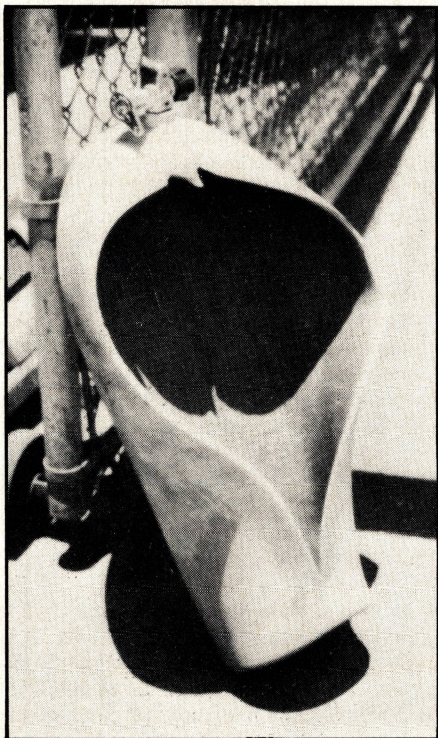
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inders for all concerned. For the manufacturer the advantage is that an impact extrusion press, exerting a force of 3500 psi, stamps a cylinder out of an ingot of aluminum in one step. A steel cylinder may take several forging steps. For the diver the advantages are less corrosion and maintenance and a longer life.

The disadvantages of an aluminum cylinder when compared to one of steel are mainly a slight increase in size of the cylinder and in internal pressure to get the same volume of air available; less resistance to shock damage (scratches, dents, etc.); and much less resistance to the effects of high temperatures. Also, corrosion occurs in the area of neck threads unless these are coated.

ALUMINUM CYLINDERS AND HEAT

There have been several violently explosive failures of aluminum cylinders during filling operations, some with fatal results. All of these failures, involving



pressures below the rated pressure of the cylinder, have been traced to the cylinder having been exposed to high heat such as that from a fire.

It has been determined that aluminum cylinders exposed to fire or other sources of heat in excess of 350° F (177° C) should be condemned and destroyed. There is no way to recondition such overheated cylinders. Divers must realize that 350° F is not a particularly high temperature. Almost any kind of structural

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The ForceFin is a surprising experience for those accustomed to heavier, stiff-bladed fins. It's an odd sensation to get so much power from your kick, without feeling the customary strain. But it's a sensation that's easy to get used to.



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fire will produce greater temperatures than this. Also, some painting processes subject the object being painted to temperatures well above 350° F. If there is any doubt about whether or not an aluminum cylinder has been subjected to excessive heat a hydrostatic test of it should be made.

INTERNAL CORROSION/ALUMINUM CYLINDERS

Tests for corrosion rates on aluminum cylinders indicate that internal and external corrosion in these cylinders does not pose a safety threat to divers. However, aluminum cylinders are extremely sensitive to corrosion when certain trace elements are in some way introduced into them. This is particularly true of fluorine compounds, which have a tendency to produce rapid corrosion with a build-up of a gel-like residue.

The recommended method of cleaning the inside of an aluminum scuba cylinder is to steam clean it followed by hot air drying. Technifacts feels that aluminum cylinders should not be tumbled.

VALVE THREAD CORROSION

One area of concern for the diver using aluminum dive tanks is the threads into which the valve is fitted. In early years of use, threads in aluminum cylinders were destroyed when the valve was removed (with difficulty). In recent years tests of the corrosion byproducts in the neck threads contained a high percentage of zinc, which indicates a type of corrosion called dezincification. This is the result, to a considerable extent, of two dissimilar metals (the aluminum cylinder neck and threads and the brass valve unit) being in contact with dampness and establishing a corrosion cell. It was found that a generous application of lubricant such as Dow Corning III greatly reduced the galling and thread destruction resulting from this process. It was also found in the same tests that the brass extender tube on the internal end of the valve promotes corrosion. If this tube is covered tightly or replaced with a tightly fitting plastic sleeve or tube, corrosion is reduced.

STEEL CYLINDERS

Steel cylinders, under similar conditions and use, almost always corrode faster and to a greater extent than do aluminum cylinders. There are two principle reasons for this. First, the manufacturer can anodize the interior and exterior of an aluminum cylinder to greatly inhibit corrosion. Secondly, the corrosion in aluminum produces such a tight coating that it virtually halts the process. On the other

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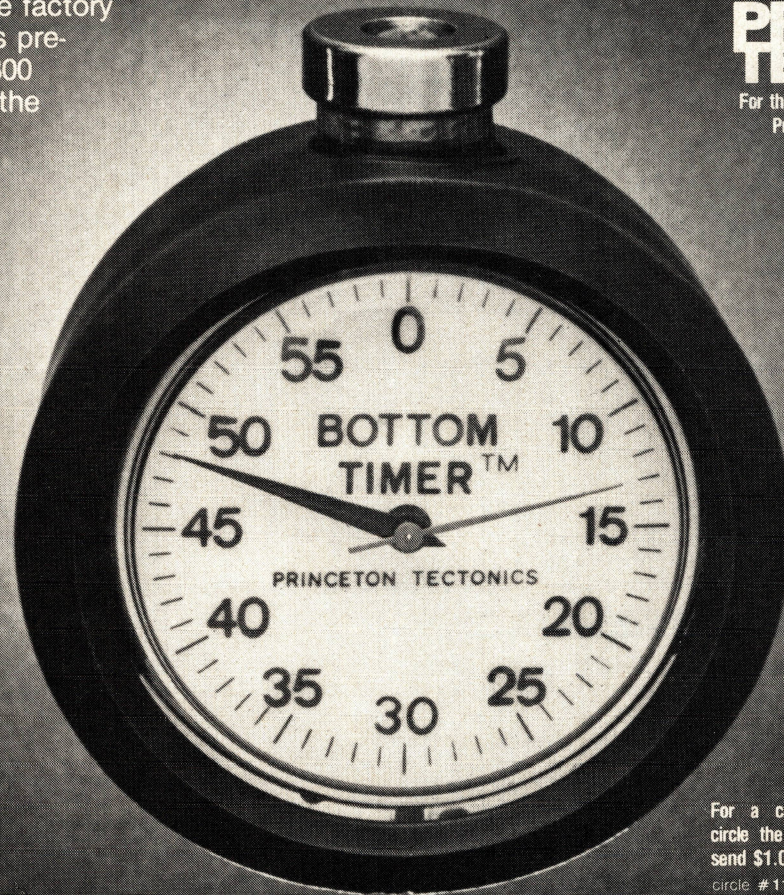
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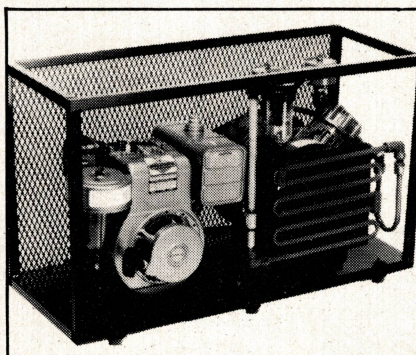
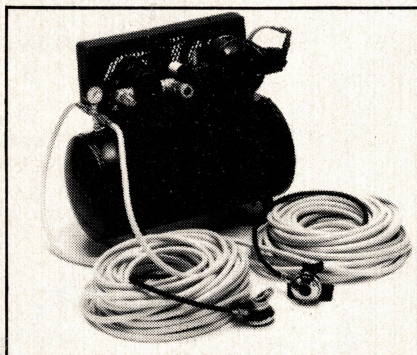
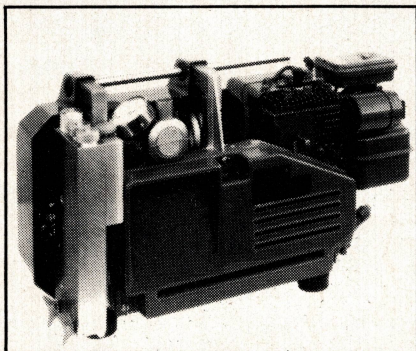
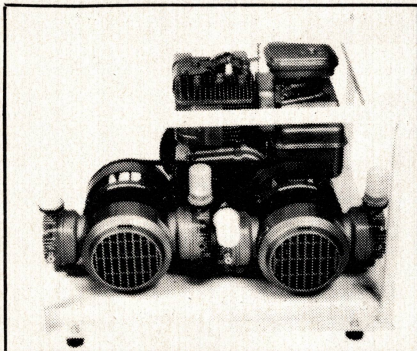
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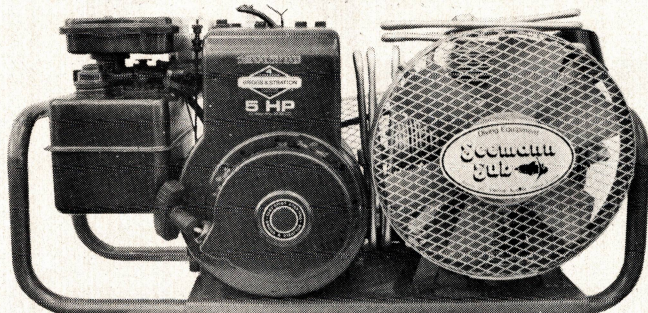
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hand, internal epoxy coatings develop failures that not only permit corrosion but increase localized pitting. The consensus of those who have studied tank failure is that a steel cylinder is better off with no internal coating at all.

OLDER STEEL TANKS

A Technifacts reader stated, "I have an older steel tank and I would like to refinish the external surface. Can you tell me where I can purchase suitable primers and paints for this?" All authorities on dive tanks agree; external galvanization is preferred to external coating with epoxies, paints or vinyls.

OXYGEN AND CORROSION

Can the percentage of oxygen in the air in a tank be reduced by corrosion? Yes. However, exact data on percentages of oxygen remaining in various stages of corrosion are hard to come by. In one extreme case, air from one particularly corroded cylinder was analyzed and found to contain only three percent oxygen.

Basically, corrosion processes depend on the presence of moisture and oxygen. The more of each, the faster the corrosion. In the corrosion process oxygen in the tank is used up. In extremes, seldom encountered in scuba tanks, all of the oxygen in the cylinder could be used up. It seems advisable to store cylinders, either steel or aluminum, with a minimum amount of air pressure, probably no more than 100 psi is adequate. If a full tank is stored for a long time (several months) it also seems advisable to slowly empty the tank, have a VIP and, if the cylinder is OK, fill it again.

HYDRO TESTING

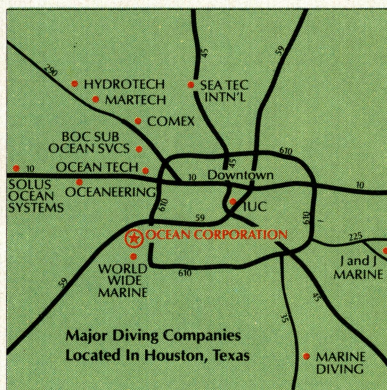
The U.S. government agency having jurisdiction over cylinder safety specifies that all cylinders, diving and others, must be hydrostatically tested once every five years. There are many indications that scuba tanks should be tested more often than this. Most authorities feel an annual visual internal inspection (VIP) and a hydro test every three years would be safer. In 1980, New Zealand passed regulations that make it mandatory for scuba cylinders to be hydro tested every three years. Technifacts would appreciate hearing from readers from around the world on test, inspection and tank failure statistics. Write to Technifacts, c/o SKIN DIVER Magazine, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069 USA.

Next month Technifacts will continue the discussion on safety, tests, inspections and recommendations for getting the maximum safe use from both steel and aluminum cylinders. ➤

Why Houston?

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The Ocean Corporation is located in Houston and more commercial divers are hired in Houston than in any other place in the world. Twelve diving companies are located in Houston including three of the four largest in the U.S. Many others are located in the nearby New Orleans area. The demand for divers is so great in Houston that large locally based diving companies like Ocean Systems, Hydrotech Systems, Martech International and Sea Tech International have hired many of our students for part-time work while they were attending school. Over 90% of our recent graduates went to work for these and other local diving companies when they completed our program. Houston is the place where the action is...the commercial diving, offshore construction and oil industry capital of the world.



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The Ocean Corporation is a commercial diving company, not just a school. Our facilities, equipment and training aids are the best, and our diving systems are as up-to-date as possible... because much of the equipment is used by our diving operations division to perform actual diving contracts in the field. Ocean Corporation has successfully completed many underwater jobs for various industrial clients over the years... including specialized underwater inspections, maintenance and repair work. For example, we did the world's first commercial underwater repair job in a nuclear power plant. And most of our divers have been graduates of our own school.

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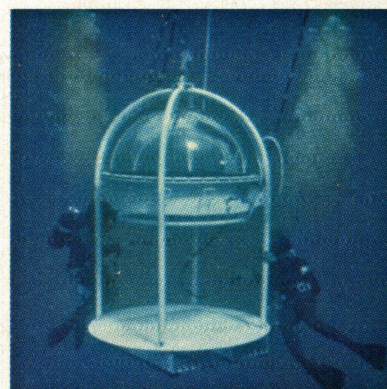
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The Ocean Corporation management and instructor staff have long-term experience in the international offshore oilfield diving business. Retired ex-military divers and sport scuba divers don't run the school...commercial divers do. For example, the President of The Ocean Corporation, Larry

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Rx FOR DIVERS

BY FRED BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

Last month we provided some guidelines on multilevel dives—those where you start with a deep, short dive, then come to a shallower depth to finish.

Further computer testing of sport diving profiles at the University of Pennsylvania indicates that there is an increased risk of bends in some of the two-level dive combinations. Remember, these combinations have not been tested in actual diving and use of the technique with some profiles will be unsafe. Some two dive profiles have undoubtedly been tested by divemasters and successful experience with a given dive combination suggests that these will be safe.

The safest way to do a two-level dive is to keep the shallow portion of your dive at 30-40 feet. Deeper depths may increase your risk of bends.

This month Dr. Kenneth Kizer of Novato, California, has contributed the section on diving with diabetes. Dr. Kizer is a former Navy Diving Medical Officer and currently practices environmental and hyperbaric medicine.

Presently, there is some disagreement about diabetes and diving. Many of those trained in dive medicine feel that diabetics who take insulin should not dive because of the risk of hypoglycemia and a possible serious or fatal accident.

We have asked the physicians of the Undersea Medical Society to provide comments on this subject. Dr. Kizer's article provides one point of view: Other opinions will be presented later.

DIABETES VS DIVING

Diabetes mellitus is one of the commonest afflictions of mankind, affecting an estimated five percent of the U.S. population or roughly, 10-12 million people in this country. Many are active and athletic individuals who suffer no func-

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Rx FOR DIVERS

tional impairment owing to their hormonal disturbance of sugar metabolism. Not surprisingly, a number of diabetics are interested in scuba diving. However, because of concern about the safety of diving for diabetics some dive organizations and medical authorities have espoused the view that *all* diabetics should be prohibited from diving. I feel this is overly restrictive and unrealistic.

It is true that diabetics are at risk of developing hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) reactions, especially during vigorous exercise. Such reactions could result in serious injury or even death if they occurred while diving. Similarly, diabetics may presently have, or at some time develop, physiological problems which might impair their ability to respond to underwater emergency situations or which might predispose them to decompression sickness or other dive related problems. However, not *all* diabetics have such problems. Indeed, the experience of quite a number of long time diabetic divers suggests that at least in some cases they have no more problems than anyone else. Clearly, though, this is not to say that diving is okay for all diabetics. Instead, it is my feeling that advice to diabetics who wish to scuba dive should be individualized and that only diabetics who meet several rather stringent requirements are suitable sport diving candidates.

So, what are these conditions?

First, prospective diabetic divers must be mature and responsible individuals who can foresee and reasonably understand the potential consequences and ramifications of their actions—both for themselves and their dive buddies. Similarly, they must be able to realistically assess their physical capabilities and adjust their activities accordingly.

Second, they must have a sound understanding of diabetes in general and how it affects them individually. Each diabetic has unique physiological and psychological characteristics. Although general prescriptions about diet, exercise and insulin or other anti-diabetic medication (the three mainstays in the treatment of diabetes) apply to all diabetics, successful treatment depends on tailoring these factors to meet the personal needs and lifestyle of the individual. The same principle applies to diabetes and diving. Diabetics who wish to dive must understand how these three factors (i.e., diet, exercise and insulin) interact to control their well-being, and they should be able to make mild adjustments in such according to changes in their daily activities. Diabetics who wish to dive should be well enough controlled that moderate changes in their daily activities do not significantly alter their blood sugar.

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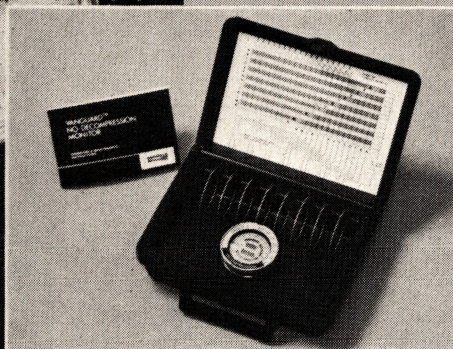


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dive should be physically fit individuals who have no problems performing hard physical exertion on land. It would be foolish to think that a diabetic could safely undertake something underwater (i.e., exercise vigorously) that could not be done on land. Thus, before considering a diabetic's ability to dive it must be first established that he/she can perform terrestrial physical activities having a work load comparable to diving.

Fourth, diabetic divers should have no other impairments or disabilities which might predispose them to, or be confused with, a diving related problem. This includes any of the neurologic or cardiovascular complications of longstanding diabetes. Similarly, they should have no other problems which would limit their abilities to respond to an emergency situation underwater.

Fifth, diabetics who dive should understand that the standard decompression tables may not be as safe for them as for non-diabetics. Consequently, their diving should be more conservative and they should avoid exceptionally arduous or other unusually demanding dives.

And lastly, diabetics should only dive with buddies who are aware of their condition. These persons must know how to recognize and take care of a hypoglycemic reaction and other similar problems which might develop during the course of a dive. Obviously, then, diabetic divers must tell their dive buddies that they are diabetic before taking the plunge. This is something which some diabetic divers are very fearful of doing.

The opinions expressed here seem reasonable to me after dealing with a number of diabetic divers and making over 200 dives with diabetic divers during the past ten years. Some physicians, however, will strongly disagree with these statements. This difference in opinion should be recognized. But, it should also be recognized that objections to diabetics diving are based primarily on theoretical reasoning. It is very hard to find any documented instances of a diving related medical problem developing directly as a result of diabetes in an otherwise healthy diver. ➤

USSC EGG HUNT

The United States Scuba Council will hold its Second Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt on April 10. There will be over 100 prizes to select from. As with all USSC events, the first place diver selects his prize first, the second selects second and so on. There will be a picnic style lunch served at 12:30 pm.

Over 90 divers participated in last year's Easter Egg Hunt. For more information, contact the USSC at P.O. Box 331, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515. ➤

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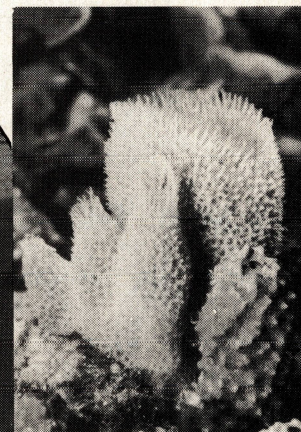
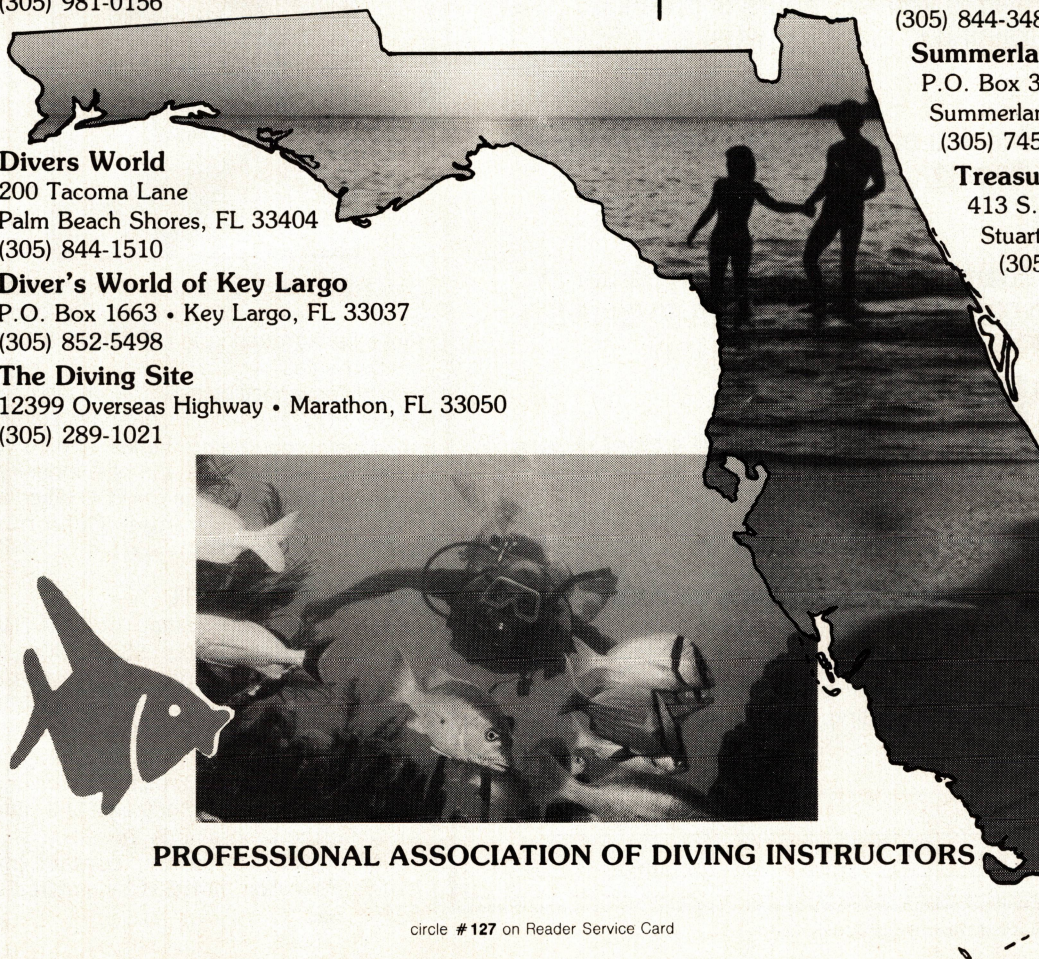
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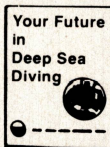
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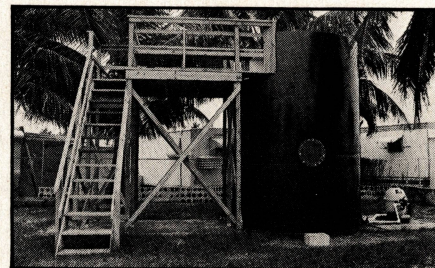
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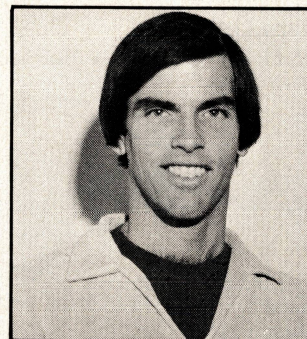


cluding refresher courses. Divers coming to the area may also use the tank to check their equipment before making an ocean dive with Quiescence.

For information on classes or reef trips, write Box N-13, Key Largo, FL 33037; or call (305) 451-2440.

PIHL TO NAUI

The NAUI Professional Development Center of California has appointed Curt Pihl to the newly created position of director of student services. A native of the



San Francisco Bay area and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Pihl's background is in education, athletics and sales.

In his new position he will work with potential PDC students, coordinate alumni services for course graduates, and serve as the PDC liaison with the dive industry. Pihl can be contacted at the PDC office at 1706 N. Tustin, Orange, California 92655; (714) 998-6362.

NACD SEMINAR

The National Association for Cave Diving will hold its Spring '83 Seminar in conjunction with the spring quarter board of director's meeting of the NACD. The seminar will be held in Tallahassee, Florida on Saturday, April 9, beginning at 4:00 pm. Workshop topics will include Karst Geology of the Southeast U.S. and Air Medevac programs in the U.S.

For more information, contact the NACD, P.O. Box 14492, Gainesville, FL 32604.

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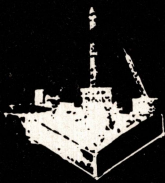
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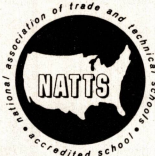
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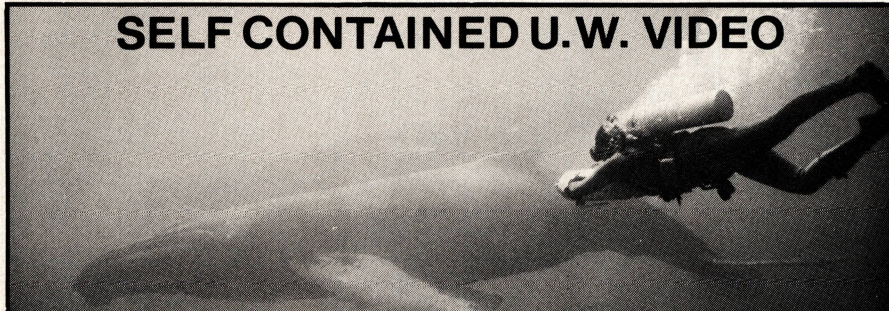
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The courses scheduled include: scuba life saving (YMCA and PADI)—April 1-3; coral reef ecology (YMCA and PADI)—April 8-10; search and recovery techniques (YMCA)—April 14-18; ocean and reef diving (PADI)—April 22 through 24; advanced certification (YMCA and PADI)—April 28-May 2; divemaster (YMCA and PADI)—May 21-27; instructor's institute (YMCA)—June 4-9.

For detailed information, write or call Al Marques, Director, Underwater Activities Program, Pennekamp, P.O. Box 13-M, Key Largo, FL 33037; telephone (305) 451-1621—Florida toll free (800) 432-2871.

DIVERS DAY

The Third Annual Divers Day is scheduled for May 1 at General Dynamics Missile Park, San Diego, CA. Promoting diving throughout Southern California, the event is open to all who are interested in our water environment. This year's event will feature continuous movies from 1:00 to 6:00 pm, with a special guest speaker at 3:30 pm.

Raffle prizes are being donated by area shops, retailers, restaurants and travel agencies, as well as local divers, to promote the event and provide a good time for all. New and antique dive gear will be displayed and traded throughout the event this year (bring yours).

The Convair Scuba Club is hosting the event and will sponsor an information booth as well as refreshments booth during the day.

For more information contact president Gene Gunn (619) 277-8900, ext. 2420.

SEAWALL DIVING CENTER

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The featherweight black polysulfone TS-1000 is available for only \$49.95. So lightweight and comfortable you may never realize that you're wearing the most advanced underwater watch on the market today. For only \$79.95, you can get the all stainless steel model TS-3000. Both are rugged and withstand water in any form — sweat, rain or total submersion.

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The all stainless DW-1000 is available for \$69.95. The stainless case and resin band DW-1000C is only \$59.95. And for just \$34.95, you can own the 100 meter water-tight black polysulfone W-400, the world's most asked-for underwater timepiece.

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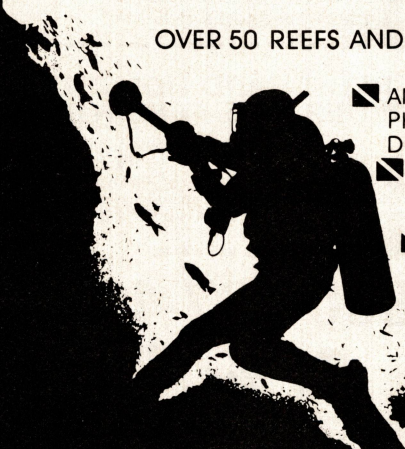
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A BAG For All Reasons

BY BONNIE J. CARDONE



Just call me the "Bag Lady." This is the fourth article I've written on dive gear bags in the past year. They're all alike—right? Wrong! Each company's bags are different. Wenoka's Dive-Pacs, for instance, have several interesting features I've not found on any of the others.

Most unique are Wenoka's padded sleeves, available in three sizes. These consist of two nylon covered, compressed rubber sponge pads sewn together on three edges. The fourth edge is open and into it you can put those dive instruments and gauges that need extra protection. These sleeves are made to fit into specific compartments on specific bags, but could just as easily be packed in the main compartment of most of the bags. The sponge pads are impervious to petroleum and, both pad and nylon cover are waterproof.

All seven of the Wenoka bags are constructed of polyurethane impregnated Z-Tex nylon. They come in red with black trim or blue with red trim. The nylon ensures they will remain good looking and last a long time. The polyurethane makes them waterproof. All of the bags have sturdy nylon zippers with twin, lockable pull tabs. The D-rings and other hardware are also nylon, as is the two inch webbing. This latter not only reinforces the bags at strategic places but forms hand-grips that close with Velcro. All of the bags except the Flight Pac have a clip on

the inside for keys. Five of the bags have brass grommets in the bottom for drainage. (The other two bags are not designed to carry dripping wet items.) There is an adjustable, padded shoulder strap (1800-S, \$4.95) available as an accessory for six of the bags; it comes standard with the largest bag. Also available as an accessory is the 1800-T luggage tag. At only 95 cents it is a good investment.

SKIN DIVER received four of the Wenoka bags for testing. Here is a brief description of each.

The 1806 Pro Pac: This is the smallest of the bags—it measures just 14 x 7 x 9 inches. It is padded on all sides and has a large patch pocket on the outside. This bag is designed to carry more delicate objects such as camera gear, gauges and regulators. It sells for \$29.

The 1807 Flight Pac: This is a light but roomy piece of luggage that will hold a great deal but still fit under an airline seat. It, too, is fully padded. Just 19 x 13 x 6 inches in size, it has a large zippered compartment on one side and a patch pocket on the other. The Flight Pac sells for \$47.

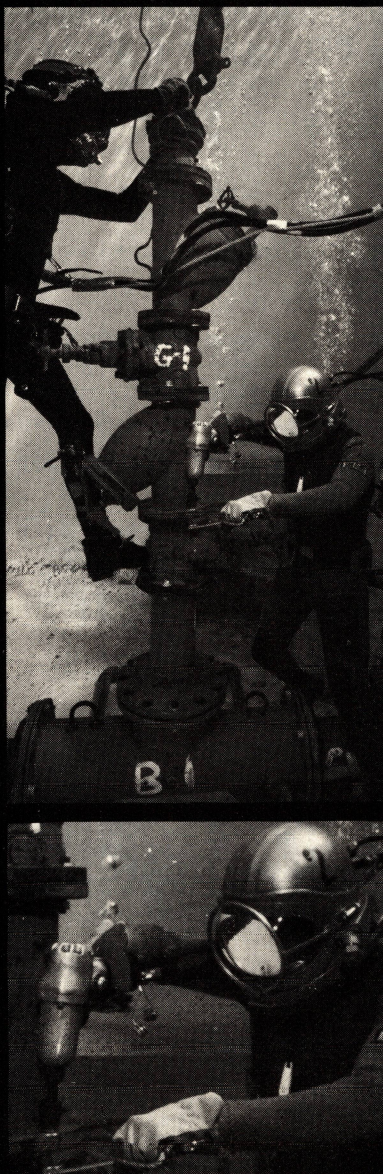
The 1802 Scuba Pac: This is a medium sized gear bag measuring 30 x 15 x 13 inches. An optional padded sleeve (1800-PEL, \$9.95) fits into the zippered compartment on the outside of one end. On the other end are two smaller pockets. The optional 1800-PES sleeves (\$5.95) fit into these or they will hold Pelican First Aid Kits or Boxes or other small items. The Scuba Pac sells for \$57.50.

The 1801 Master Pac: This is a larger version of the 1802. It is a huge gear bag, measuring 34 x 16 x 14 inches. It has two internal zippered compartments into which the 1800-PSL padded sleeves fit. One sleeve comes with the bag, extra ones are \$16.95 each. This sleeve is more than 27 inches long and 11 inches wide and could be used to protect all of your dive instruments and gauges. As on the 1802, there is a large zippered compartment on one end and two zippered pockets on the other. The Master Pac, with one large sleeve and adjustable shoulder strap, sells for \$115.

There are two Dive-Pacs not shown in our photograph—the 1805 Trip Pac and the 1804 Duffle Pac. The Trip Pac is designed to carry those items you wish to keep dry. Full length flaps on the zippers keep them waterproof. The Trip Pac measures 24 x 12 x 12 inches and retails for \$44. The Duffle Pac is a lighter nylon than the other Dive-Pacs but it, too, is polyurethane impregnated. The nylon webbing on this bag is one and one-half inches wide instead of the two inch webbing found on the other Wenoka bags. The Duffle Pac sells for \$21.50 and measures 30 x 13 x 13 inches.

See Wenoka's Dive-Pacs at your dive shop. For more information contact the company at P.O. Box 8238, West Palm Beach, FL 33407. 

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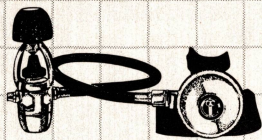
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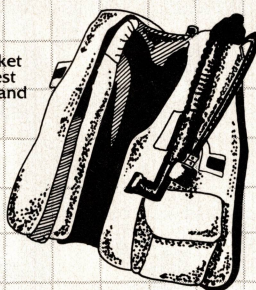
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OCTOPUS

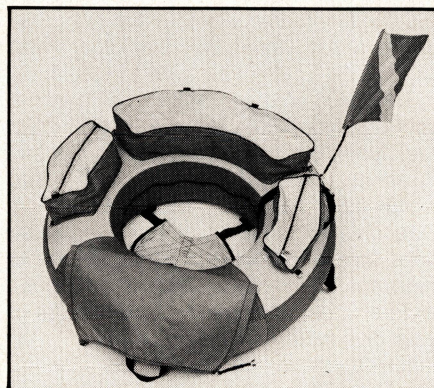
(Continued from Page 32)

neoprene—waterproof except for the zipper. However, the liner zipper is placed at an angle to the pocket zipper and splashed water can only enter the liner where the two cross.

The third pocket (6 x 5 x 27 inches) can serve as a storage area, or back



rest/additional flotation chamber. This latter is accomplished by folding a partially inflated car inner tube (13 or 14 inch) into the pocket. At the ends of each pocket are small D-rings on short web straps (six in all) for attaching extra gear.



A square apron of red nylon is sewn, along one end, to the front of the float cover. The other end has elastic cords at each corner which terminate in nylon clips. This apron, when stretched over the user's lap and clipped to two of the little D-rings, serves as a flexible work surface where the instructor can change a mask strap, write on a slate, etc. This apron can also serve as a cover over the float when a game bag is suspended from it. At this writing the manufacturer doesn't offer a game bag for the Octopus, but adapting one should be easy.

For easy carrying, four nylon web handles are attached to the outer surface of the cover. These also serve as grips for tired divers in the water. A large grommet near the base of the float allows water to drain out.

An optional divers flag assembly (\$25) completes the Octopus package. The

flag itself is tough nylon fabric (red with a light silver stripe) with a sewn-in stiffener. The flag shaft slips through two grommets in an elastic strap and the strap adjusts (snap-in buckle) to fit snugly around the tube.

Assembly of the Octopus is simple: Insert the partially inflated inner tube through the zipper which encircles the inside of the cover, close the zipper and inflate the tube (the valve extends through the cover) to about three psi. If the tube is accidentally overinflated the cover zip-



Optional zippered liners are available for the small pockets of the Octopus cover. They are made of nylon and neoprene.

per will part, preventing any damage to the seams. The zipper can then be closed when the tube is deflated.

A point to note is that the price of the cover does not include tubes, and the valve of the main tube must be bent into the correct position (instructions are provided). Tubes are available from the Octopus' manufacturer—truck \$25, car \$10.

With respect to care, the Octopus requires only rinsing in fresh water after use and drying before storage.

The Octopus float cover retails for \$125 and comes with a warranty which lasts as long as the original purchaser keeps it. For information contact Dry-Diving Systems, Inc., 22640 85 Place South, Kent, WA 98031; (206) 854-6247.

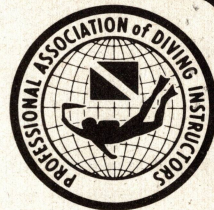
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Sunday, May 8, W.E.T. will host a pool party at the Coronado Municipal Pool on Coronado Island, starting at 1:00 pm. There will be a free introduction to diving and the pool will be open to those who wish to try out their dusty dive gear.

For more information call W.E.T. (619) 263-8700.

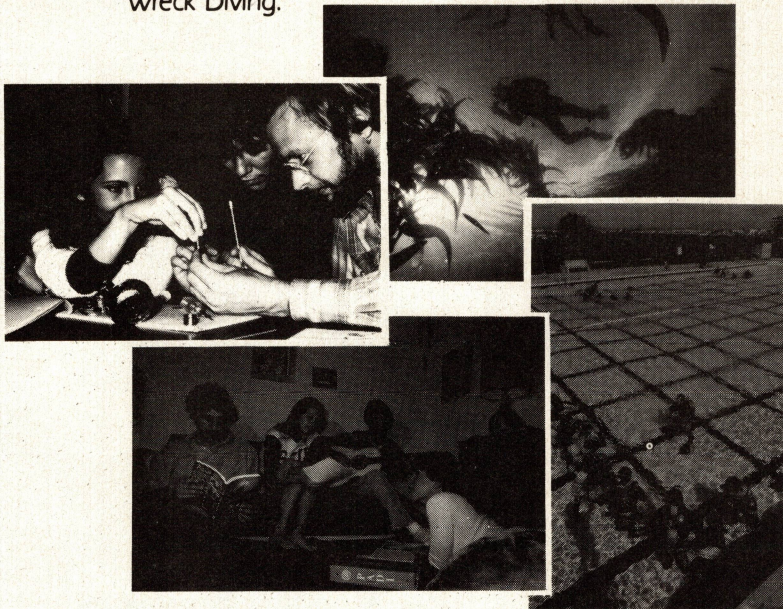
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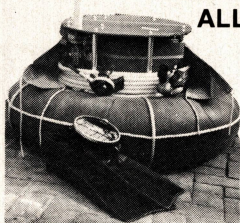
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CDC CPR

The many facets of training that make up the education of a commercial diver are often valuable in totally unexpected ways. Phillip DeFreitas, a student at Commercial Diving Center in the Los Angeles Harbor, had the opportunity to find this out first hand.

DeFreitas, who had just finished his CPR and first aid training at CDC, was having his morning cup of coffee at a local restaurant when he glanced out the window and saw a jogger clutch his chest and fall to the ground. DeFreitas rushed out and administered CPR both until the paramedics arrived and while they were working on the man. Said DeFreitas, "I just never thought it could happen to me. The reaction was instinctive owing to the training I had at school."

MICHIGAN BOAT

A new dive boat will soon be in operation on Lake Michigan in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. The 43 foot, steel hull vessel, powered by twin 255 hp engines, is U.S. Coast Guard certified for 22 passengers and will be available for day charters to the wrecks in the area.

Arrangements can also be made by clubs and shops for charter of the boat for week long and weekend cruises to other areas and for on board classes.

Owner and operator of the vessel is Fred Frommelt, former owner of the Black Magic Dive Shop. Fred holds a U.S. Coast Guard 100 ton license as well as a PADI master instructor rating and instructor ratings in seven courses.

Contact can be made at the present time through the Black Magic Dive Shop, 202 E. Main St., Round Lake, IL 60073 and the Underwater Connection Dive Shop, N87W16459 Appleton Ave., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

JONES FILMS

The film, *Return of the Great Whales*, premiered on Public Broadcasting station KQED in San Francisco in December. It drew the largest number of members and the largest total money pledged in the history of KQED television. The film was acquired by the Public Broadcasting Service and aired nationally in March.

The *Return of the Great Whales* was produced by Hardy Jones in cooperation with KQED television. It runs 45 minutes and depicts the return of humpback and blue whales to the waters off San Francisco after an absence of 15 years.

Currently near completion are two other Jones' films: *Five Years with the Dolphins*, the story of a breakthrough between humans and dolphins in the waters of the Bahamas; and *The Sea of Cortez*, a whole systems look at what makes this youngest sea on earth the most abundant sea on earth.

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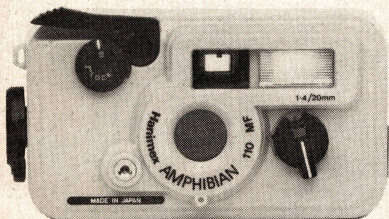
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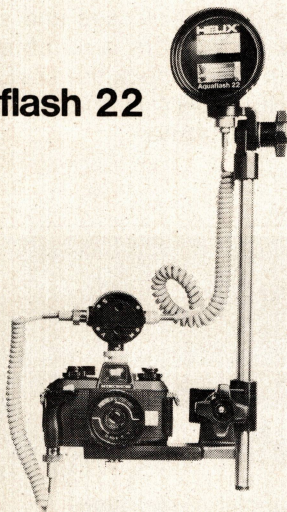
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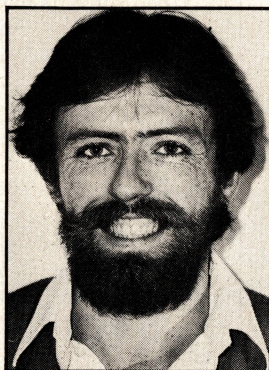
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MASSEY TO DIT

Michael O. Massey has been appointed underwater photography/dive instructor at Divers Institute of Technology. Massey has worked as a commercial diver



since 1977 and has been involved in a variety of projects from setting pipeline risers to non-destructive testing (NTD). His photographic experience includes inspection work with the Nikonos and Hasselblad systems.

For further information contact Divers Institute of Technology, 4601 Shilshole Ave. NW, P.O. Box 70312, Seattle, WA 98107.

MICHIGAN DIVE CONTEST

Michigan Diver magazine is sponsoring the 1983 Our Lakes Are Great, Michigan Dive Contest. The contest is open to all certified scuba divers (who dive in Michigan waters) through June 30. Cash prizes totaling \$225 will be awarded.

Entry forms are available at local dive shops in the Kentwood, MI area or from Michigan Diver magazine. The forms include space for describing a Michigan dive—type, weather, equipment, etc. made after January 1, 1983. Forms will be judged on interest, enjoyment and dive safety.

For information and/or entry forms, contact Richard Posthuma, Editor-Publisher, Michigan Diver, P.O. Box 88011, Kentwood, MI 49508.

SCUBA CAMP/ROATAN AND CAYMANS

Scubacamp '83 will be offering two camp locations for its young divers this summer—one at Reef House Resort, on Roatan, and one that will find its teens, ages 12-17, dividing their time between the Brac Reef Hotel, on Cayman Brac, and Sunset House, on Grand Cayman. At all locations, four levels of NAUI scuba certification will be taught, as well as tropical and marine biology, with related field trips around the islands.

Information is available from Thelma Clark, Scubacamp Director, 200 Ansel Road, Geneva, Ohio 44041; (216) 466-2440.

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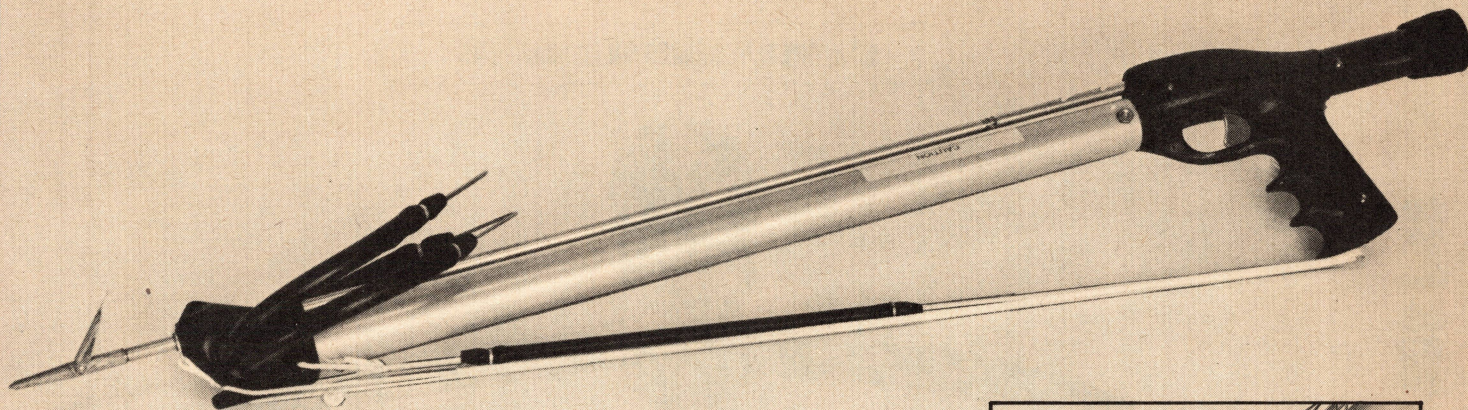
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AQUACRAFT'S BONITO

THIS MEDIUM-SIZED BANDITO IS A CONVENIENT TRAVELING PARTNER

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRED FISCHER

A popular member of the Bandito family of spearguns is the Bonito from Aquacraft. The secret of such appeal is that this handy gun measures only 36 inches from point to butt cap, yet packs the punch of some of the larger guns. It fits nicely in your dive bag and is ideal for hunting medium sized fish in tight areas around rocks and coral. Stock features include a 26 x 5/16 inch stainless shaft, single barb spear point, two 13 inch black rubber slings and hollow aluminum tube construction.

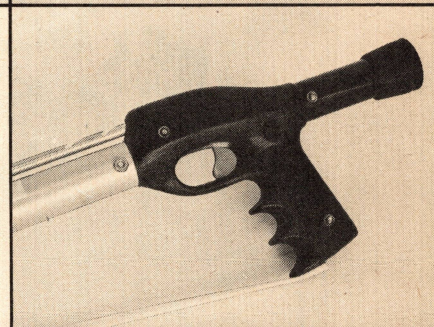
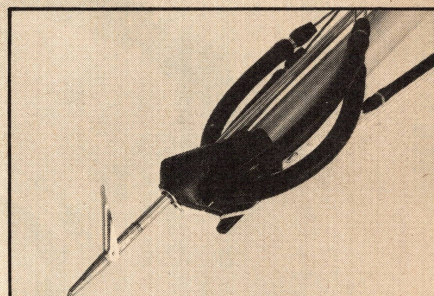
Since the Bonito features a closed muzzle, the hunter must feed the spear-shaft through a loop on the tip and then into the trigger housing during loading. Guides on the sides of the muzzle force the slings into parallel alignment with the shaft for added accuracy. Space is provided for a third sling, however, only two notches are cut into the shaft. The half-inch, heavy walled tubing in the slings must be stretched approximately 12 inches when cocking the gun.

Finger contours on the grip are especially deep for a comfortable and steady aim. The safety is just behind the trigger, and snaps conveniently from side to side with thumb and base of the index finger. It is difficult, however, to read the engraving on the gun to ascertain the status of the safety. Triggering is relatively smooth. In a somewhat unusual manner, the eight

and one-half foot shock cord stretches four-fold from the muzzle to the bottom tip of the grip rather than closer to the barrel. A short stock extends behind the grip and provides improvement in arm leverage during loading.

The hollow aluminum tube connecting the plastic muzzle and trigger housing is O-ring sealed at each end to provide an air chamber for buoyancy, which causes the gun to float upward following discharge of the spearshaft. It is a good idea to make sure this chamber is still waterless after the dive and before storage by shaking the gun and listening for water.

I was able to test the Bonito while diving from the *Bottom Scratcher* off Mexico's Coronado Islands. The water was baited with a bloom of pelagic red crabs. Record size fish are not uncommon around the kelp beds in this area. After entering the water I found the shock cord had to be shortened slightly owing to the fact that nylon line often stretches when wet. The strength of the heavy duty bands was felt both during loading and with the recoil. The balance was such that it was easy to hold the gun with one hand, and accuracy was found acceptable after firing at several stationary targets. During reloading it was noted that the slip ring tended to hang up on the stops at the tail of the shaft. I was unable to cause the gun to prefire while knocking it against



The Bonito has a closed muzzle (top) and the shock cord wraps from the muzzle to the bottom of the grip.

the rocks and shaking it violently.

Aquacraft is the source of a large selection of spearfishing equipment and accessories for the Bonito. Their selection of spearguns, polespears and Hawaiian slings is impressive. Plated and stainless steel six millimeter spear tips are available in various sizes and include single barb, double barb, trident, three prong, four prong and slip tip styles. Amber and black rubber slings range from lightweight seven-sixteenths inch to heavy duty five-eighths inch diameter. Steel cable wishbones are available for those spearfishermen who often break the standard wire model. Cable is, however, prone to fraying.

Owing to small size, the Bonito is ideal for the traveler or as a gun to always have on hand in your dive bag. It comes with a limited lifetime warranty on the handle and muzzle and is available from Aquacraft dealers everywhere with a suggested retail price of \$74.95.



Nemrod SATURN 300 PRO

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE COZENS

It was still dark as the *Scuba Queen* slipped her dock lines and set a course for Santa Catalina. Some stars were still hanging in the western sky, but the pinkish tinge on the opposite horizon held the promise of a beautiful dive day. The channel was extremely calm. The only imperfection we encountered was a damp fog which enveloped us on the way over, and, like some in-laws, stuck with us too long during the day. Our arrival at Emerald Bay was heralded by the loud clanking of the anchor chain. This noise, like that of an alarm clock, awoke most of the divers from their slumber and sent them stumbling up to the deck. "Fantastic," was the general consensus. The water appeared cool, but exceptionally clear: With 30 feet of water under the keel, we could see details in the sandy bottom. It wasn't long before most of the bodies aboard had abandoned ship.

Wanting to forego the stares and teasing comments of fellow divers, I decided to wait until most of them were in the wa-

ter before donning my "hydra-appearing" scuba outfit. Actually, this outfit isn't so strange: It consists of a normal tank with a Y-valve, to which are attached two separate first stages. One belonged to the test regulator, the new Saturn 300 Pro from Nemrod. The other first stage supplies my own second stage, an octopus/safe second stage, a console, and a BC power inflator. (Despite the derogatory remarks, that amounts to only five hoses emerging from behind my head.)

Gathering all my stuff together, over the side I went. I settled on the sandy bottom, at a depth of about 40 feet. The first step was to check the inhalation resistance. The Saturn Pro has an adjustable demand valve knob on its second stage. When this is all the way in, the regulator is harder to breathe. Conversely, screwed all the way out, the knob allows easier breathing. I unscrewed the knob as far as possible and the regulator started performing like a champ. In fact, it compared very favorably to my regulator

(which, I have noted before, was one of the top performers in the 1980 U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit's regulator test). I was impressed. The Saturn 300 Pro proved to be quite an easy breathing regulator. Inhalation resistance was relatively minimal, from sipping to large intake rates, and didn't seem to change much when varying positions (except when on my back, looking up; when inhalation resistance increased noticeably—but this is a commonly observed trait of single hose regulators). While standing on my head (with fins pointing up), I did notice a slight bit of water entry—very slight. This characteristic has been experienced in several other regulators, enough to make me wonder if it is a generic thing with the units; or just my idiosyncrasy.

Freeflowing can sometimes be a problem with easier breathing regulators. In this regard, the Saturn should be no different, if the adjustable valve knob is screwed all the way out. At this high performance setting the unit freeflowed with

vigor when the mouthpiece was turned up while the second stage was full of air, or if the purge were depressed. While full of air, the unit freeflowed a little and then stopped when the mouthpiece was held horizontally and did not freeflow at all when pointed downward. After the knob was screwed in (low performance setting), I could get essentially no freeflowing to occur (even when filled with air), regardless of second stage orientation. These characteristics would be very useful in octopus/safe second stage applications, where it could be de-tuned when not in use (to avoid freeflowing), but readily adjusted (for easier breathing) by the diver when put into service.

Exhaust behavior was also impressive: Perhaps because I expected the longish

down the gradual slope, I stopped when my depth gauge indicated 80 feet. At this depth I tried to out-breathe the regulator. I couldn't. The greater the inhalation, the better the Saturn 300 Pro seemed to respond. My personal conclusion from this evaluation is that this Nemrod regulator has got to be classified as a high performance unit.

The only negative feature (if, indeed, it can be called that) might be the long, fine thread on the second stage demand valve adjustment: It seems to take a lot of turns to go from one extreme to the other (i.e., from knob-in, to knob-out). This long thread may be desirable, however, since it allows the individual diver to fine tune the regulator to his/her preference.

To some divers, especially newer arriv-

Association) Show in January.

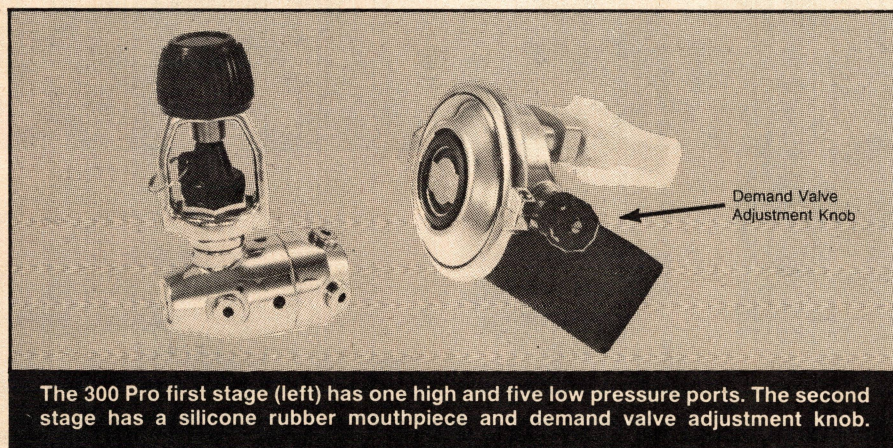
The Saturn 300 Pro will be Nemrod's top-of-line regulator. Its first stage is a rather heavy (about two pounds), forged brass, chrome plated unit, incorporating a balanced, flow-through piston design. The swivel yoke is forged from chrome plated brass and rated at a working pressure of 200 bars (about 2900 psi). A DIN fitting is also available for European equipment and it has a rating of 300 bars (slightly over 4350 psi). Internally, the piston and spring (Teflon coated to resist freeze-up in cold water diving) are made of stainless steel, the high pressure valve seat is of Teflon, and the remainder of the components are of ABS plastic and ultraviolet resistant rubber. The first stage features: a dual inlet filter (as double protection against impurities); one high pressure port (engraved HP); five low pressure ports (one directly in line with the air flow, and four others, evenly spaced, and pointing out at about 80 degrees to the main axis) on a non-rotating end cap; and an intermediate pressure of about 8 to 10 bars (116 to 145 psi).

The intermediate hose measures 27 inches long, has a working pressure of 217 psi, a test pressure of 435 psi, and a burst pressure of 870 psi.

The second stage utilizes a conventional, downstream demand valve, with a venturi assist. Its case and front cover are stamped from brass sheet and chrome plated. The clamping ring, which holds the case together, is also of chrome plated brass. The sensitive diaphragm, the protective diaphragm cover (containing the stainless steel logo/purge button), the low pressure seat, and the long exhaust tee are made of ozone and ultraviolet resistant rubber. Stainless steel is used in the demand lever and silicone rubber in the exhaust valve and the mouthpiece. This second stage features a large, easily accessible purge button, and an external knob for the user-adjustable demand valve.

At the time of writing, only two Saturn 300 Pro regulators existed in the U.S., one of which I had the good fortune to evaluate. Thus, no data was available on service records or costs. Because of the conventional design, however, maintenance should be no more than that required for any similar regulator. Recommended service should be performed by one of the factory authorized service centers in the U.S.

Considering the fine appearance, quality construction, high performance, and price (\$235 suggested retail), I would recommend this regulator be test-dived by any prospective buyer. I was impressed, and so might you be. ~~xxx~~



The 300 Pro first stage (left) has one high and five low pressure ports. The second stage has a silicone rubber mouthpiece and demand valve adjustment knob.

exhaust tee to create more resistance than it does. From small to large exhalation rates, the Saturn 300 Pro seemed to exhibit about the same, to slightly less resistance than my comparison regulator. And, the long exhaust tee? It does a good job of directing exhaust bubbles away from the diver's field of vision: When looking ahead (horizontally), only a few bubbles rose in front of the mask; and by looking downward just a few degrees, even these disappeared from view.

During this evaluation (and what was to follow) I experienced no strange characteristics, nor idiosyncrasies. In all honesty, the only problems I encountered during the dive were: (1) trying to keep sand off my underwater slate while jotting down results; and (2), shooing away the curious *senoritas* (*Oxyjulis californica*, small, impudent, California wrasse), which nibbled on my pencil.

The Saturn 300 Pro performed beautifully—so well, in fact, that I decided to carry the evaluation further. Dropping on

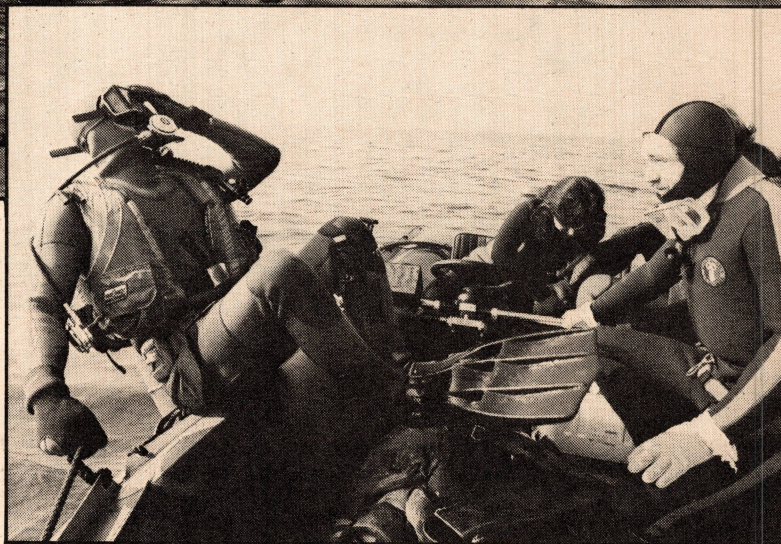
als to the sport, the name Nemrod might not seem too familiar. I remember Nemrod equipment back in my early dive days. But, I didn't realize how long the company has been in business, nor how big it has become, until I talked to Ken Brown and Al James of U.S. Aqua Sports. This company, formerly called U.S. Nemrod, is the exclusive U.S. distributor of Nemrod products. According to Brown and James, Nemrod is the oldest and largest manufacturer (on a worldwide basis) of dive gear. The company started making this equipment back in 1935. Some of Nemrod's early inventions included: a recreational dive mask (1941); a recreational snorkel (1941); a spring powered speargun (1941); fins with fixed heel straps (1943); and a pneumatic speargun (1951). With such a vast reputation, it should not be taken too lightly that Nemrod spent four years developing and refining the Saturn 300 Pro. It was first publicly introduced at the 1983 DEMA (Diving Equipment Manufacturers'

Achilles SR156



Moves Achilles into the large boat fleet

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY ERIC HANAUER



In 1982, Achilles captured first place in the inflatable boat market sweepstakes. The Japanese firm sold more boats in the United States than any other manufacturer. Now, that's not as great an upset as the Chicago Cubs winning the National League pennant, after all, Achilles is owned by Kohkoku, one of the world's largest chemical companies.

How did Achilles do it? They produced a complete line of straightforward, conventional boats based upon current practice in the field. They added a lot of standard equipment which was sold as options by competitors. Then the package was sold at a very competitive price. At first, the workmanship wasn't quite up to par. But the current edition of Achilles boats

displays quality and attention to detail. All seams are straight and clean. No glue shows underneath the edges. Everything fits. The boats offer value for the money. That's what has made them number one.

For 1983, Achilles is moving into the large boat field with the introduction of two 15 foot, 6 inch models: the SR 156 and the SD 156. As is the case with all Achilles sportboats, the only difference is the bowdodger. The SR series has a fixed Hypalon bowdodger, held up by a small inflatable tube at the back end. The SD is an open boat, but a removable bowdodger is supplied as standard equipment. It is a light vinyl affair which attaches by means of elastic cords. Unlike the sturdy number on the SR, the

SD's red bowdodger won't support a windshield or any weight. But it will deflect spray and provide a semi-dry area up front, which is its primary purpose, after all. Furthermore, divers will appreciate the extra space and the \$150 savings of the open boat.

Our test model, however, was the SR 156. The gray fabric had a shiny finish which is typical of Achilles boats. Scott McIntosh of Port-a-Marine, Costa Mesa, CA explained the shine was owing to the manufacturing process. It begins with a tough nylon fabric especially designed for inflatable boats. The outer coating of 80 percent Hypalon and 20 percent neoprene is calendered by slow, high pressure rollers, then is slow-cured. The

smooth, shiny texture is the result of the high Hypalon content and the curing process. The inner coating is pure neoprene; because ozone resistant qualities are not needed there.

The boat's five chambers (plus the inflatable keel) are filled through large plastic valves, covered by a Hypalon flap. To inflate, turn the upper collar and insert the foot pump tube (the one-way valve won't leak, even if the pump nozzle is accidentally removed). For quick deflation, unscrew the cap and valve together. Valves can be replaced in the field if necessary because they are fastened in place with a locking collar instead of with glue. All are easy to reach, except the one for the bow chamber, which is underneath the fixed bowdodger.

The wooden floorboards are trimmed with aluminum, and fit together with a tongue and groove arrangement. The aluminum stringers fit into a raised groove above the level of the floorboards, which makes them easy to install. Anyone who has sweated and cursed while trying to fit stringers underneath floorboards will appreciate this arrangement. The pressure of the inflated

tubes pushes the stringers into place and locks the floorboards firmly into position. Achilles was the first to design this self-locking floorboard system, which has since been copied by others.

There is a long list of standard features. Two drain plugs are in the floorboards at the stern, in addition to a pair of self-bailing plugs in the transom. The latter are equipped with non-return valves. Four large rubber carrying handles are on the outside and a helmsman's handle inside, for driving at high speed. Stainless steel D-rings are provided for tying down loose gear. Spray is deflected by means of a lip on the rubbing strake, in addition to deflector trim on top of the tubes.

One thing missing on the SR 156 is a set of oars and oarlocks. However, that makes sense. Realistically, no one would ever row a boat this large unless the engine died. In that case, paddles would serve as well as oars. With no oarlocks, the tops of the tubes are kept clean, free of obstacles to entry and exit. Nothing is there to dig into one's derriere. Paddles, however, are an option which the owner would have to obtain.

For our test, we loaded the boat with

four divers and full ocean gear and a 40 horsepower Suzuki engine. Both the boat and the motor handled the load with ease. Even with the bowdodger, we could have accommodated another diver. And, the motor hardly worked to get it up on a plane. The SR 156 is a hard riding boat, which displayed some bounce even on a relatively smooth sea. On turns, the keel was unable to get good adhesion, and it skidded. This isn't quite as critical for divers as it would be water skiers, but could be a factor on long trips over open water.

With the long standard equipment list, not many options are needed to get the SR 156 ready to dive. A pair of launching wheels or a trailer allows it to be launched fully loaded. A fuel tank fitting kit straps the tank down on its own platform, to keep it from bouncing. A bow holdall provides storage for clothes and valuables. Proper tube inflation can be assured by the use of an accurate pressure gauge.

The SR 156 sells for \$2,900 at Achilles dealers. Those divers opting for the removable bowdodger can obtain the SD 156 for \$2,750.



The Achilles SR 156 has a fixed Hypalon bowdodger, held up by a small inflatable tube at the back end. The boat has five chambers and an inflatable keel. A mixture of 80 percent Hypalon and 20 percent neoprene is slow calendered into the nylon base fabric of the boat, giving it a tough, shiny finish. With a 40 horsepower Suzuki outboard engine, the SR 156 planed easily while carrying four divers with full ocean gear. No oarlocks are present on the tube tops, which allows unobstructed entry and exit. Standard features on the boat include: drain plugs in the floorboards; non-return self bailing plugs; deflector trim; four large rubber carrying handles (outside); helmsman's handle (inside); rubbing strake; and stainless D-ring tiedowns.

ACHILLES SR 156

Length.....	15'6"
Beam.....	6'3"
Tube diameter.....	19.7"
Weight.....	211 lbs.
Load capacity.....	2400 lbs.
Number of passengers.....	8 or 5 divers
Horsepower.....	35 recommended, 50 max.
Number of chambers.....	5 plus inflatable keel
Material.....	nylon/Hypalon/neoprene
Floorboards.....	wood/aluminum trim
Available colors.....	red or gray
Price.....	\$2,900

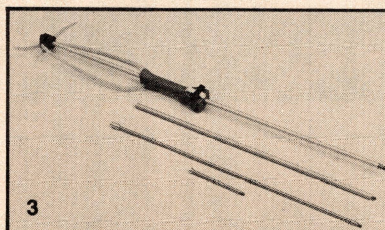
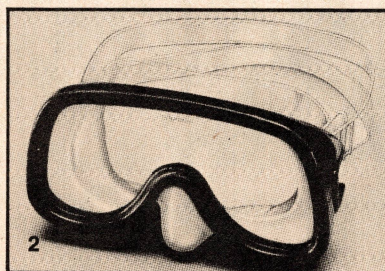


1983

SHOPPER'S GUIDE

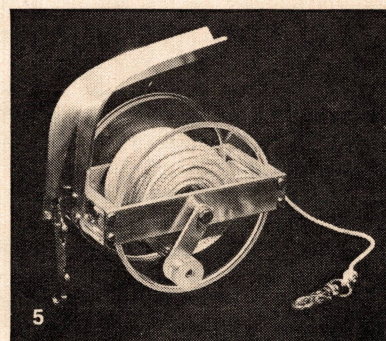
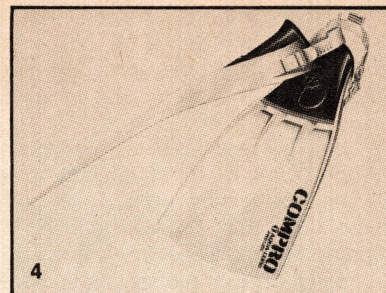


1 Buoyancy Compensator—The Pro Line BC Jacket has self-adjusting side panels, oral/power inflator, integral manual dump valve, overpressure valve with dump, D-rings, quick release buckle on waist and chest, and expandable pockets. Nylon/urethane laminated inner bag. \$325 (\$350 with pack). U.S. Divers.



2 Silicone Mask—The Osprey has a high impact resistant molded frame combined with a low volume skirt. Quick strap adjustment. Available with black skirt and yellow/black or blue/black frame (\$39); or with hypoallergenic clear silicone skirt and black or translucent blue frame (\$59). From U.S. Divers.

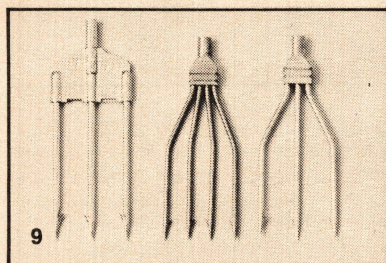
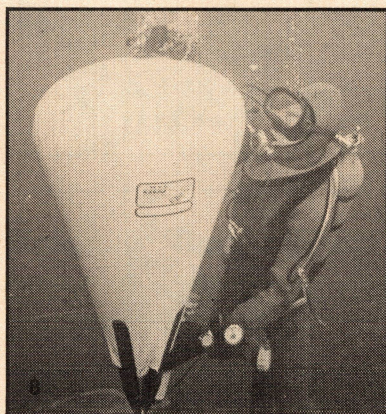
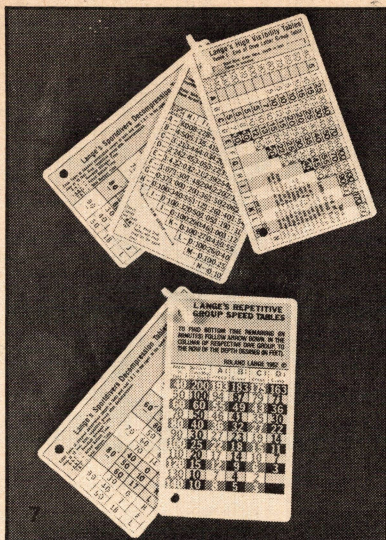
3 Hand Spear—Combining the simplicity of a polespear with the "cocked and ready" aspect of a speargun, the Spear-It Hand Spear features a stainless steel spring in a locking handle with safety. Spear can be disassembled for cleaning and easy storage. Accessories available. \$53.50. From your Aquacraft dealer.



4 Dive Fins—The Compro fin is engineered to provide efficient thrust with minimum retrieve effort. The thermoplastic/rubber foot pocket is molded for comfort and thermoplastic blade is lightweight and sturdy. Includes stainless steel buckles and adjustable heel strap with pull tab. \$60. U.S. Divers dealers.

5 Line Reel—The PMI/Wilson Diving Reel is perfect for lines attached to dive floats and buoys. Reel is six inches in diameter and three inches wide. The see through design minimizes foul-ups. Holds up to 800 feet of line (depending on size). \$60. PMI Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 803, Lafayette, Georgia 30728.

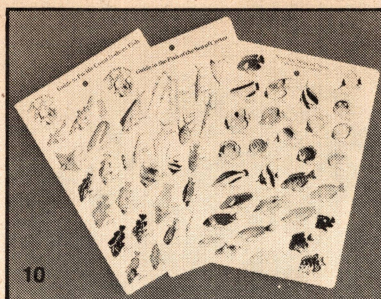
6 Underwater Knife—The Hi-Tech stiletto knife has a 4½ inch blade with sharp double edge and 1½ inch serration on each side. Handle (orange or black) is molded on and features a metal tip and finger guard. Sheath has a locking bar and comes with two depth compensating rubber straps. \$39.95. Dacor.



7 Dive Tables—Lange's High Visibility Tables are waterproof and easy to read. 2½ x 4¼ inch (\$5.95) and 3 x 5 inch (\$6.95). At a glance, Repetitive Group Speed Tables tell you bottom time remaining at a particular depth. 2½ x 4¼ inch (\$4.25) and 3 x 5 inch (\$4.95). UDT, P.O. Box 1624, Nederland, TX 77627.

8 Lift Bag—The parachute shaped SPD2 has a lift capacity of 220 pounds. Constructed of PVC coated polyester fabric, it weighs less than three pounds. The bag comes with a dump valve at the top which can be operated from below by a lanyard. Galvanized steel lift ring. \$112. From J.W. Automarine dealers.

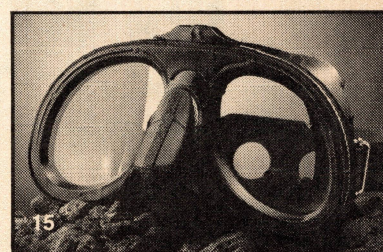
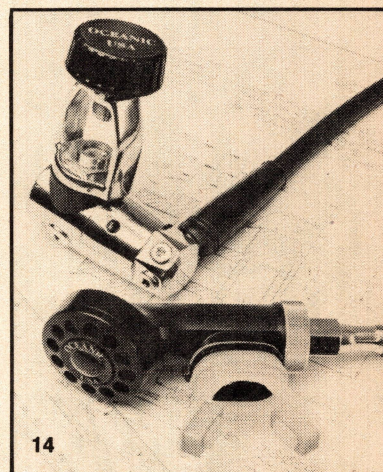
9 Spear Points—From left to right are: E-125 Extra Large Flat 3-Prong, E-124 4-Prong Head, and the E-123 3-Prong Head. All spear points have 6 mm thread. \$7.50, \$8.50 and \$6.50 respectively. For use on smaller fish. From dive shops, or contact Aquacraft, 7992 Miramar Rd., San Diego, California 92126.



10 Underwater Field Guides—The handy, rugged, 6 x 9 inch plastic cards name and give a full color illustration of common fish of the Sea of Cortez, Hawaiian reefs, or inshore the U.S. Pacific Coast. Waterproof. \$5.95 each. From Natural World Press, Suite 246, 251 Baldwin Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401.

11 Dive Knives—Made of one piece of 440 stainless steel, these knives feature both sharp and sawtooth edges. 8¾ inches long with 4½ inch blades. Quick release safety sheath. KP-931 \$39.95. KP-931-T (Teflon coated) \$42.95. Dingo Cutlery Co., 4509 NW 23rd Avenue, Suite 9, Gainesville, Florida 32601.

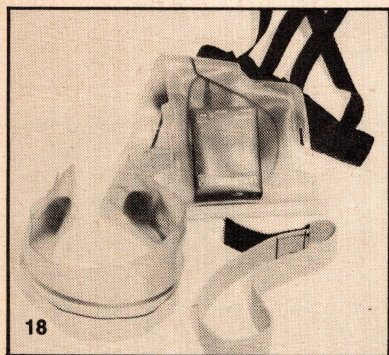
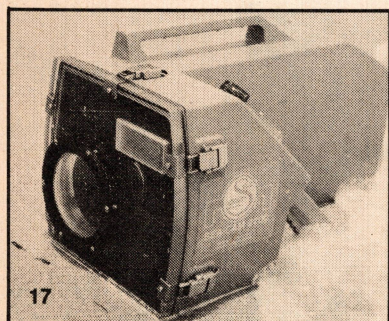
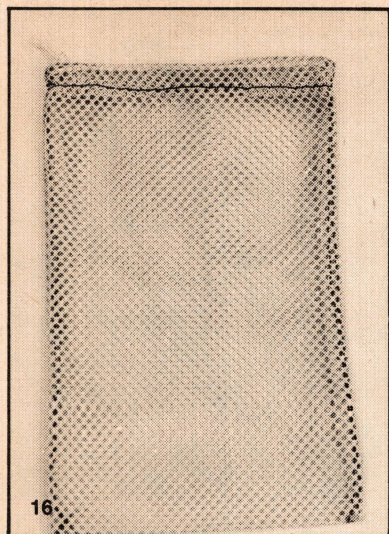
12 Full Foot Fin—The Cordaflex fin features a soft, comfortable full foot pocket and a lightweight thermoplastic blade. Strong side rails on blade provide a more stable kick for greater propulsion with less effort. Full heel gives protection from rocks and coral. \$30-\$33 depending on size. From your Dacor dealer.



13 Rubber Drysuit—The Viking Sport 80X is made from lightweight rubber, allowing maximum freedom of movement. Orange color assures excellent visibility. Cross shoulder zipper, automatic outlet valve, inlet valve, air supply hose, repair kit and storage bag are included with each suit. \$675. From Viking dealers.

14 Side-purge Regulator—The Omega regulator features a balanced first stage, providing constant intermediate pressure. Second stage has offset purge, servo-assist and moldable mouthpiece. Regulator only, \$250. The Omega is also available as a system with gauge console and octopus. From Oceanic USA.

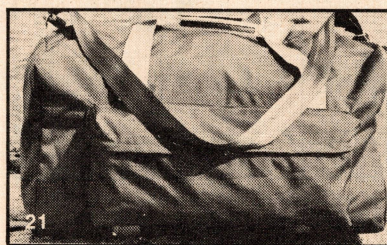
15 Dive Mask—Designed to form a good seal over a mustache, the Viso mask has low volume for easy clearing and better vision. Lenses are close to the eyes and angle in at bottom. High grade rubber skirt secures to the frame by a stainless cable, lowering mask profile and reducing drag. \$32. SeaQuest/Mares dealers.



16 Mini Catch Bag—This mesh bag measures only 8 by 12 inches. It can serve as a shell collecting bag or as an organizer for smaller items in your game or gear bag. Bag is 100 percent polyester and has drawstring top. \$2.50. At your local dive shop, or Aquacraft, 7992 Miramar Rd., San Diego, CA 92126.

17 Video Camera Housing—The Sea-Cam 2700 housing is designed for broadcast quality video cameras. Features include: 45 degree angle viewfinder for shoulder and waist level viewing, clear ports, visible O-rings and water intrusion alarm. \$7,495. Sea-Cam, Inc., 6080 S.W. 28th St., Miami, FL 33155.

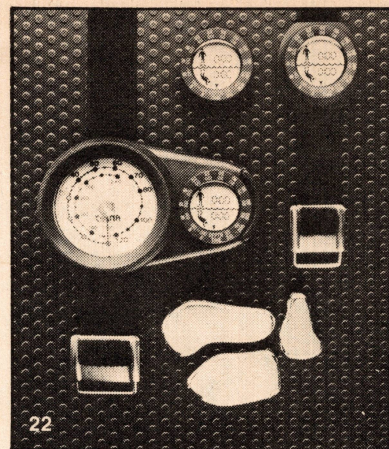
18 Splashproof Stereo Case—The Aqua Stereo is a rugged plastic bag that encloses the headset, wire and control box of portable cassette players and radios. A simple clamp seals against leakage. For watersports such as swimming and sailboarding. \$39.95. Technovation, Inc., 42 Grove Ave., Leeds, MA 01053.



19 Battery Charger—The Charge 8 system will charge up to four pairs of AA, C or D batteries, or two 9 volt cells. Unit uses standard 110-120 volt current. Charge 4 (not shown) will charge two pairs of AA, C or D batteries, or two 9 volt cells. Charge 8, \$29.99. Charge 4, \$23.99. From General Electric dealers.

20 Drysuits—The Henderson Drysuit features inlet and outlet valves for increasing diver comfort, attached hood, taped seams, and welded seam ends with the Henderson Dot. 1/4 inch Rubatex foam neoprene in several Lycra colors or three nylon colors. \$559.95 in Lycra, \$483.95 in nylon. From Henderson.

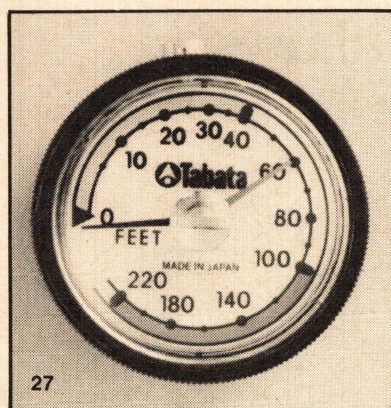
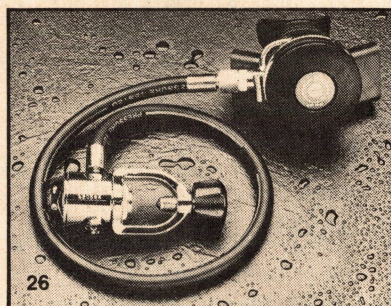
21 Gear Bag—13 x 15 x 27 inches, with a pocket 18 x 9 x 3 inches, the Side Pocket Duffle bag has over three cubic feet of storage space. 1000 denier Cordura nylon, with YKK Vistalon main zipper. In burgundy or navy, with contrasting straps. \$44. Norlantic Enterprises, 60 Griffin Road., Hudson, NH 03051.



22 Dive Timer—The Digital Dive Timer automatically tracks and displays bottom time and surface interval. Activates at a depth of five feet. No decompression limits on bezel. Long life lithium battery. With Tekna-Strap (T-3100), \$69.95. Separately (T-3101), \$59.95. With max. depth (T-2670), \$129.95. From Tekna.

23 Decompression Computer—The E.D.G.E. is an electronic, diver-carried decompression computer which creates a table of your dive profile as you dive. Completely automatic, it provides a continuous read-out of depth, bottom time, etc. \$390. Orca Industries, Inc. 335 Lancaster Avenue, Frazer, PA 19355.

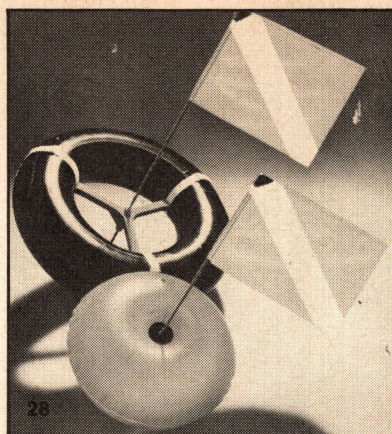
24 Dive Light—The UL850 light has two stainless clips which secure the one piece Lexan rim and lens. Provides two hours of usable light and recharges in 10-15 hours. Durable Cyclocal plastic body. Light with charger \$85. UL615 Fog Cutter amber lens reduces reflection from suspended particles (\$6). Dacor.



25 Swimsuits and Shorts—Deluxe shorts (\$25.95) have inner brief, key pocket and draw string. Unisex shorts are without brief (\$14.95), and swim suits are available in men's (\$14.50) and women's (\$26.00) styles. All items are nylon fabric, and swimsuits have flat seam construction. From SeaQuest.

26 Regulator—The MR 12-III scuba regulator first stage has four low pressure ports and a swivel yoke for accessory hoses. The second stage utilizes a bypass tube to provide easy breathing. Regulator alone, \$240. With octopus second stage, add \$110. Environmental kit, \$60. At your SeaQuest dealer.

27 Depth Gauge—The SCA-99 depth gauge has a color coded scale from zero to 220 feet. With a clear acrylic crystal, Lexan case and diaphragm mechanism, the gauge is sturdy and reliable. Maximum depth needle allows accurate repetitive dive calculation. Zero adjust screw. About \$76. From Tabata.



28 Dive Floats—The Probuoy I (with plastic float) is designed to skim across the water easily. The Probuoy II incorporates a standard 14 or 15 inch car inner tube. Stripes on dive flags are permanently attached vinyl. Probuoy I \$24.95. Probuoy II \$20.95 (inner tube \$7.25). Available at Pennform dealers.

29 Anti-Chafing Pants—Sea Chaps are designed to protect your valuable dive suit from scuffs and tears caused by rocks and rust or jagged metal, etc. Made of durable Cordura fabric with nylon stitching, they feature two 8 x 12 inch utility pockets. \$95. From DUI Inc., 1148 Delevan Dr., San Diego, CA 92102.



PADI DIVE ROSTER

Date _____ Instructor _____ Level of Training _____

Dive Site _____ Temp. Air _____ Water _____

Training Observed _____ Depth and _____

Weather _____

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
A																												
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Emergency Phone Numbers: _____

Fire Department: _____ Hospital: _____ Chamber: _____

Police: _____ Other: _____

30 Dive Gloves—The Henderson Gauntlet features a long cuff on a five finger glove for warmth and protection. Gloves are available in 1/4, 3/16, or 1/8 inch nylon two Rubatex neoprene, with Henderson Dot reinforced seams. \$35.95 1/4 inch, \$33.95 3/16 inch, and \$31.95 1/8 inch. At Henderson dealers.

31 Dive Boots—The DB-3008 diving boot is designed for maximum comfort and durability under any diving or walking condition. Tough, molded rubber sole and toe and heel protectors are vulcanized to 3/16 inch nylon two neoprene upper. About \$50. DB-3003 (nylon one neoprene) is about \$40. From Tabata.

32 Dive Roster—For keeping track of dive groups or classes, the reusable plastic slate has space to record pertinent information on 28 divers, plus dive site and emergency information. Notebook size (8 1/2 x 11 inches). Waterproof. \$11.39. From PADI, 1243 East Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92705.

Scuba Quiz

Category: Light Salvage

By Dennis Graver

All divers sooner or later have opportunities to salvage something underwater. There are proper methods to employ or the PIGSAC (Pull Intensely, Grunt, Strain And Curse) approach may be used. Test your knowledge of a few correct procedures for light salvage by answering the questions for this month's quiz. The answers are on the following page.

1. An object being salvaged should be marked with a surface buoy:

- ☐ A. Until ready to be raised to the surface
- ☐ B. Until it has been surfaced
- ☐ C. Until it has been removed from the water
- ☐ D. Only if the water is turbid

2. To overcome the suction of an object embedded in the bottom, a force up to _____ times the weight of the object being recovered may be required:

- ☐ A. Two
- ☐ B. Four
- ☐ C. Ten
- ☐ D. 25

3. The preferred method to overcome the suction of an embedded object is by means of:

- ☐ A. An underwater dredge
- ☐ B. A very large lift bag
- ☐ C. Multiple lift bags
- ☐ D. A tidal winch

4. Lifting devices for light salvage should be inflated using:

- ☐ A. An extra second stage (octopus)
- ☐ B. A buoyancy compensator low pressure inflator
- ☐ C. Exhaled air
- ☐ D. An extra tank

5. The lifting capacity of containers used for salvage should:

- ☐ A. Slightly exceed the weight of the object being salvaged
- ☐ B. Be at least twice the weight of the object being salvaged
- ☐ C. Be at least 10 times the weight of the object being salvaged
- ☐ D. None of the above

6. In salt water, how many eight gallon lift bags will be required to lift a 225 pound outboard motor with a volume of one and one-half cubic feet? (Lift bags are neutrally buoyant when deflated. One gallon of water weighs 8.5 pounds.)

- ☐ A. Two lift bags
- ☐ B. Three lift bags
- ☐ C. Four lift bags
- ☐ D. Five lift bags

7. When several lift bags are used to recover an object:

- ☐ A. The largest lift bag should be located in the center of the lift
- ☐ B. The smaller lift bags should be placed at the ends of the lift for balance
- ☐ C. The smallest containers should be filled first
- ☐ D. All of the above

8. Which of the following light salvage practices is *incorrect*:

- ☐ A. Lift bags are to be controlled with dump valves
- ☐ B. Be sure to stay above the lift when riding it to the surface
- ☐ C. Personal flotation is not to be used when salvaging an object
- ☐ D. Using two or three small lift bags is preferable to using one large one

9. It is recommended that an object to be raised be made neutrally buoyant just above the bottom prior to being raised. This is done:

- ☐ A. To test the security of the rigging
- ☐ B. To allow the object to be moved laterally if necessary
- ☐ C. To evaluate the amount of air in the lifting device
- ☐ D. All of the above

10. Training for light salvage activities is:

- ☐ A. Necessary only for beginning divers
- ☐ B. Needed only when salvaging objects weighing in excess of 100 pounds
- ☐ C. Necessary prior to any salvage work involving the use of lines or lifting devices
- ☐ D. Very difficult to obtain

Scuba Quiz

Answers: Light Salvage

1. C. Until it has been removed from the water. Objects have been found and even raised to the surface only to sink again and not be recovered. The first step in the recovery of an object underwater is to mark it with a buoy. The last step is the removal of the buoy...after the object is out of the water.

2. C. Ten. Suction, especially that cre-

ated when the object is embedded in mud, can be difficult to overcome. It is dangerous to apply enough buoyancy to break the suction, because the lift will shoot wildly to the surface once the object breaks free. Rocking an embedded object from side to side will help overcome suction.

3. D. A tidal winch. Professional sal-

vors use dredges and winches, but such tools are not available to the recreational diver. To overcome strong suction safely, the item should be tied tightly to an adequate surface float at low tide. As the tide rises, the object will be pulled free and can then be raised safely with lift bags.

4. D. An extra tank. It isn't wise to use your personal air supply for salvage work even if you have an extra second stage available. A regulator can easily become entangled in the lift and you could then be pulled upward along with the lift. Accidents have occurred as a result of this. An extra tank is worth the additional effort required for safety.

5. A. Slightly exceed the weight of the object being salvaged. This is important. If a half filled container will lift an object, the air inside the container will expand during ascent, resulting in more buoyancy and accelerating the rate of ascent. A proper lift will have containers which must be filled completely to initiate the lift.

6. A. Two lift bags. Remember that

an object underwater is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the water displaced. The motor displaces $1\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. of water, so its underwater weight is $225 - 96 = 129$ lbs. (Saltwater = 64 lbs./cu. ft. x 1.5 cu. ft. = 96 lbs.) Each 8 gallon container will lift 68 lbs. ($8 \times 8.5 = 68$). Therefore, the number of lift bags will be two ($2 \times 68 = 136$ lbs. of lift).

7. D. All of the above. Several small lifting containers are better than a single large one because of the problems resulting from expansion in a large container. The procedures outlined in the answer choices for the question should be followed. If the lift is not balanced, the lifting containers should be deflated and repositioned.

8. B. Be sure to stay above the lift when riding it to the surface. Riding a lift is hazardous. Salvors are to get out from under and away from a lift. Divers may ascend parallel to a lift if the rate of ascent does not exceed 60 feet per minute, but must be aware of the dangers a lift is capable of producing. It is safest to allow the lift to surface independently and to remain well clear of it.

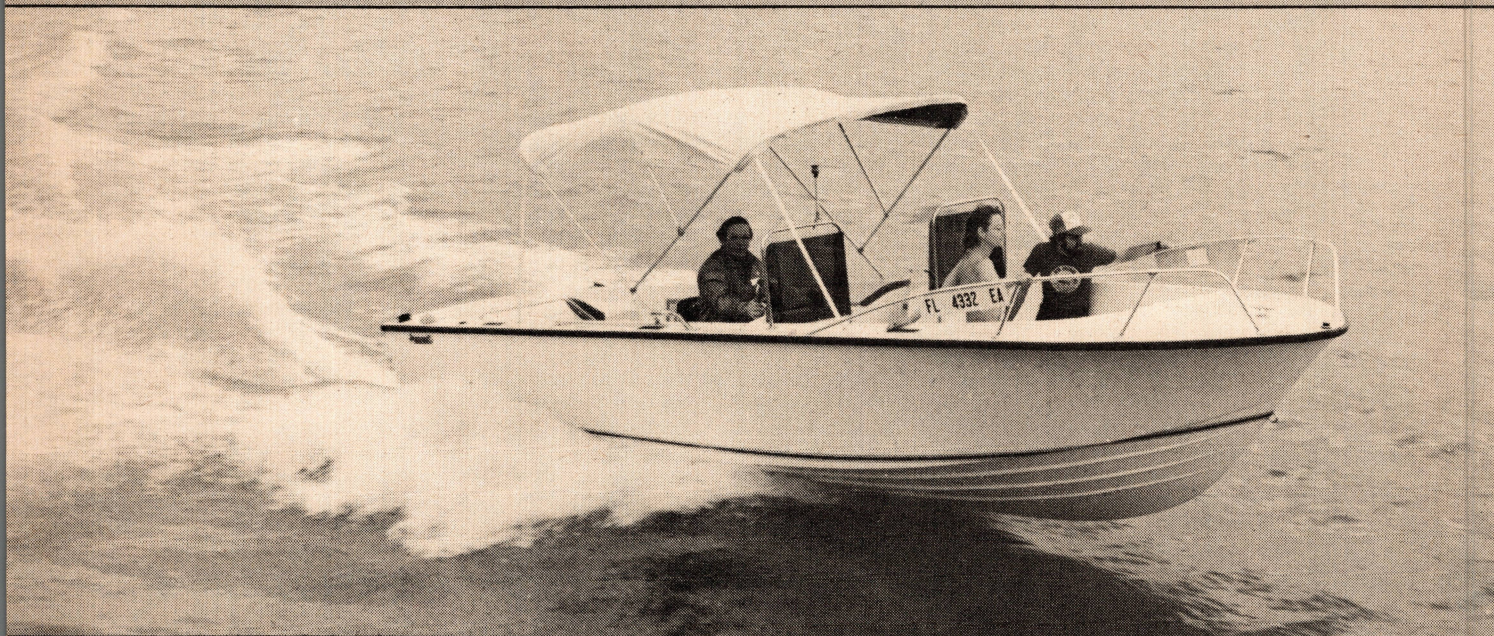
9. D. All of the above. The point at which a lift should be controlled is just when it is about to be raised. The lift container should be filled intermittently rather than continuously and the rigging and balance checked periodically during the filling. A runaway lift can be prevented by observing the amount of air in the lifting container just before the object is floated clear of the bottom. A partially filled container is a sign of trouble.

10. C. Necessary prior to any salvage work involving the use of lines or lifting devices. Sometimes divers think that all there is to light salvage is attaching a lifting device and filling it with air. As you have seen, there is more to it than that, and this quiz only covers a few points of the topic. Avoid hazards by obtaining training prior to attempts at salvage under-

water.

Since all divers have opportunities to salvage things, it follows that all divers should be trained in light salvage techniques. A search and recovery specialty course or an advanced class should be considered. Once trained, I suggest you carry a small marker buoy, a plastic trash bag, and a short piece of line inside your collecting bag. When the plastic bag is opened inside the collecting bag and filled with air, it makes a fine makeshift lift bag. You never know what you might discover...

SPACECRAFT'S



When Spacecraft delivers the 25 foot Brute it is ready to go! All Coast Guard equipment, including life jackets, fire extinguishers, lights and compasses, is onboard and ready to use. The list of the Brute's standard equipment is one of the longest in the boating industry. There are surprisingly few options because most of the equipment is standard. The base price includes a high number of accessories found only in competitive boats at optional cost. The entirety of the list would fill much of this page, but here are some you will be glad to have: international running lights, electric bilge blower, bilge pump, no-rust 75 gallon fuel tank, full instrumentation, four swivel helm/fighting chairs, removable transom boxes, non-skid cockpit sole, dual tinted windshields, cushions on forward seating, lots of storage under the forward seats and below deck, and Bimini top! High on the list is full foam flotation, an unusual and valuable accessory in a boat of this size since the Coast Guard does not require its installation. As Jules Lindquist of Spacecraft states it, "Our boats are ready to run, just add water!"

Constructed throughout of hand-laid fiberglass, the boat is available only in in-

board/outboard configurations. Power plants can be either gas or diesel, single or dual engines. Gas engines are available from 170 hp V-6 up through 260 hp V-8. Standard engines are from OMC and include power trim standard. Optional engines are available from Mercruiser, Volvo and Commander. Steering is mechanical in the single engine version with optional power steering available. However, on the twin engine models power steering is standard.

With an overall length of 24 feet 10 inches and with an 8 foot beam, the Brute offers exceptional roominess. The internal design of its 20 degree V-hull offers quick and easy access to everything from bow to stern. Two separate consoles with storage areas are amidship with a wide walkway between. The four swivel helm chairs are conveniently spaced for fishing should your time on the water be a mixture of diving and fishing. Beneath all the forward seat cushions are hidden storage compartments large enough to store regulators, BC's, wetsuits and other bulky equipment. The center, below deck storage can hold several tanks and large gear bags, while the aft below deck container doubles as a cooler. Removable

transom boxes can hide small gear and accessories within easy reach.

Large enough to hold eight or more divers, the Brute has plenty of room along her high gunwales to accommodate tank racks and two tanks per person. In use in the Caribbean as a commercial dive boat, the design is excellent for that purpose. Capable of running long distances in less than optimal seas, the Brute can carry a group of divers to offshore sites quickly and economically. The boat is capable of getting into some pretty shallow water as well, with a draft of 29 inches with the drive down and 14 inches with it up.

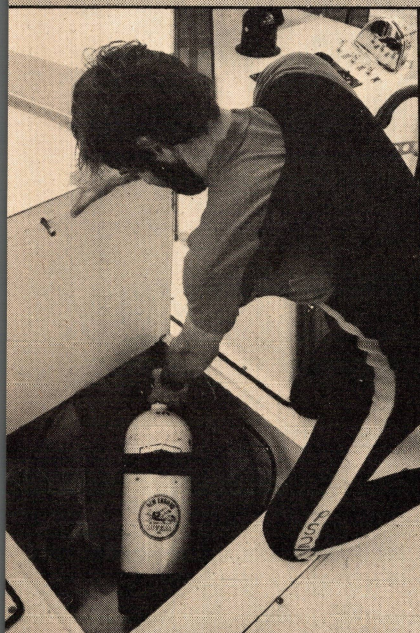
Our SKIN DIVER test boat performed as expected on the ocean chop, providing a stable, dry ride. The 3600 pound hull stays on the water in rough seas while the high freeboard and 42 inch transom keep the passengers well above the waterline: High and dry.

While a single half dive platform with drop ladder is standard, the other half platform will have to be added as an option. Other specialized dive equipment, such as tank racks, can be factory installed at additional cost. A few other extra cost options may be considered to

BRUTE

A No Option (It's All Standard Gear) Ready To Get Wet Craft

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE LUCAS



The Brute has a 20 degree V-hull which allows it to maintain a stable, dry ride in less than optimal seas. Storage is provided below deck; and in compartments in the consoles, under the seat cushions, and in removable transom boxes.

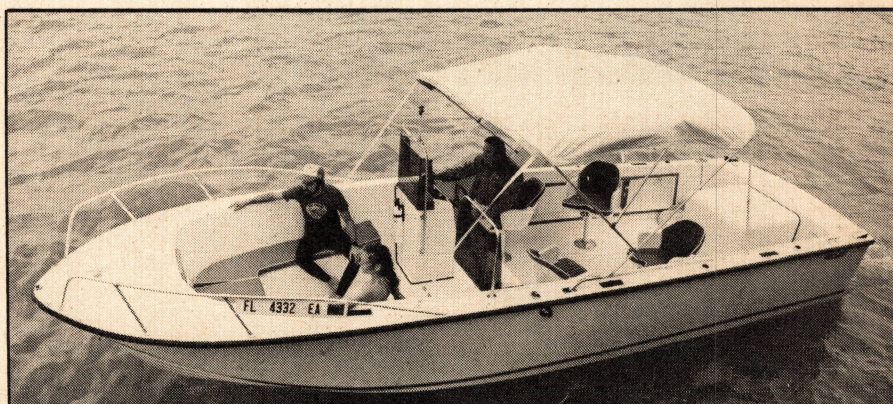


complete your dive boat package. These could include: motor box cushion to increase the seating, Mansfield 944 chemical head, instrument console cover, automatic switch for the bilge pump, and spray hood.

The Brute is available primarily as a factory direct boat; there are Spacecraft dealers in California and the Caribbean. The factory will ship the boat virtually anywhere and offers some special price incentives to new owners buying direct from the plant.

The accepted price standard for a boat of this size and type would normally run in excess of \$1,000 per foot, equipped. With 170 hp V-6 and all the extras, ready to drop in the water, the Brute retails for \$17,782. With twin 120 hp engines the retail is \$21,731. Factory direct prices are frequently better than retail.

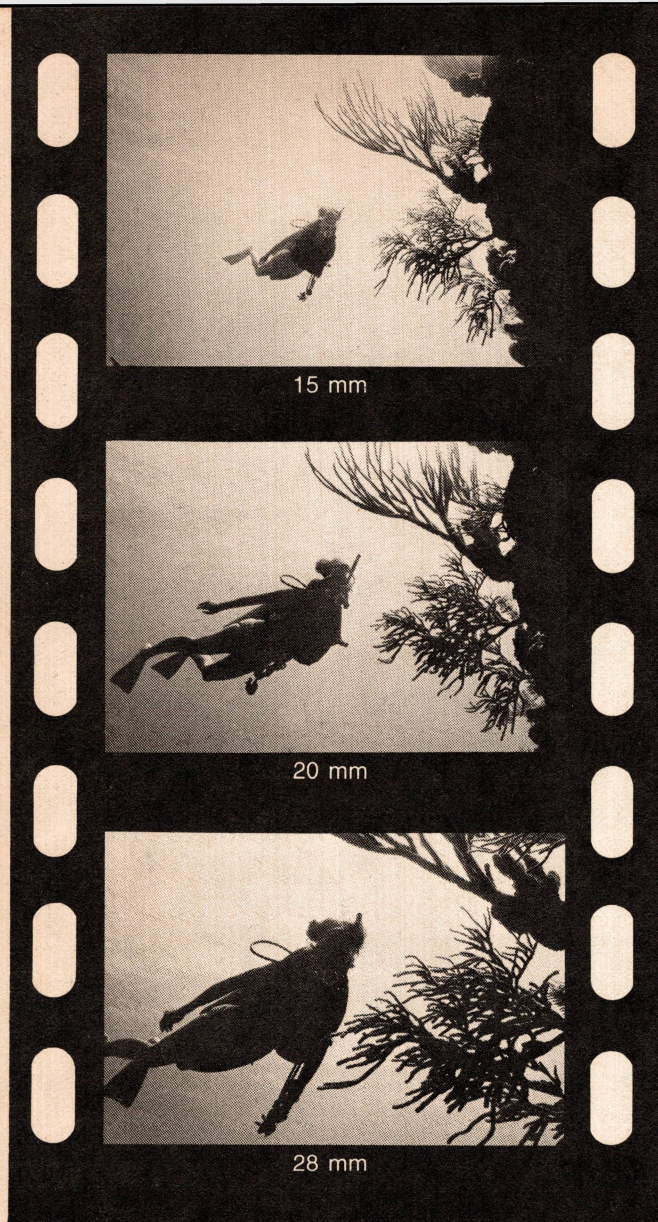
If this sounds like your kind of boat at your kind of price, call Jules in Miami at (305) 638-1148 or 635-3556. Requests for written information and catalogues can be addressed to Jules Lindquist, Spacecraft Boat Works, Inc., 3445 NW 46th St., Miami, FL 33142. Tell him you saw it in SKIN DIVER. He might just be willing to make you a deal. >



SPACECRAFT BRUTE

Length	24'10"
Beam.....	8'0"
Weight.....	3600 lbs.
Draft.....	14" drive up, 29" down
Transom Height.....	42"
Hull.....	20 degree V
Power	single or dual IO
Price	from \$17,782

The Brute has ample open space for divers gearing up, and tank racks (for up to 16 tanks) can be accommodated along the gunwales. Seating is provided by four swivel helm chairs and cushions. Bimini top is standard.



There are four specifications you should understand when you purchase a camera lens: focal length, maximum aperture, minimum aperture and minimum focused distance. Once you know what these are for any given lens, you will have a better understanding of what the lens will do for you.

FOCAL LENGTH

Technically, the focal length is the distance (usually expressed in millimeters from the optical center of the lens to the film plane. Don't panic, you don't need to get bogged down with mathematics to acquire a working knowledge of this. Simply think of the focal length as an indication of angle of view (picture angle) a lens sees. A lens with a short focal length has a wide angle of view and sees a large picture area. A lens with a long focal length has a narrow angle of view and sees a small picture area. The angle of view is measured diagonally unless specified as being vertical or horizontal.

MAXIMUM APERTURE

This is the widest aperture (lowest-numbered f stop) that the lens can be set for. The wider the aperture, the greater the amount of light passing through the lens at any given shutter speed. The major advantage of a wide maximum aperture is that it allows you to take pictures in dim light.

Maximum aperture is sometimes called the lens speed because the wider the aperture, the faster the shutter speed

FOCUS ON LENSES

PART I It's The Basics— What They'll Do And Why

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH

needed for an exposure. For example, if an f2.5 lens needed a 1/30 second exposure, an f1.4 lens could make an equivalent exposure at 1/60 second with the same subject, film and lighting conditions. Thus, an f1.4 lens is a faster lens than an f2.5 lens.

A wide maximum aperture is great for SLR focusing and viewfinding in dim U/W light. Although the aperture may be set at f22 for close-ups, you are actually focusing through the lens at maximum aperture. And, the wider the aperture for focusing, the brighter the image in the SLR viewfinder. Then, when you trigger the camera shutter, the aperture is automatically stopped down to the preset f22, a fraction of a second before the shutter uncovers the film for the exposure.

MINIMUM APERTURE

This is the smallest (highest-numbered) aperture of the lens. Small apertures are used for exposures in extremely bright conditions, such as in bright sunlight or with flash. Smaller apertures also give greater depth of field, which will be discussed later. For U/W photography, we prefer a minimum aperture of f22, and no less than f16.

MINIMUM FOCUSED DISTANCE

You usually try to minimize your U/W camera-to-subject distance to reduce the amount of water you must photograph through. And, the closer you can set the focused distance, the closer you can get to your subjects. Minimum focused distance is usually related (for mechanical reasons) to focal length. Generally, the shorter the focal length, the closer the minimum focused distance.

FINDING THE SPECIFICATIONS

You can usually find the specifications by examining the lens. With a Nikonos 35 mm lens, for example, look at the retaining ring by the front element. In addition to the name and serial number, you'll see "35 mm 1:2.5." The 35 mm means that this lens has a focal length of 35 millimeters, and 1:2.5 means that the maximum aperture is f2.5 (the number after the

colon). The minimum aperture of f22, and minimum focus of 2.75 feet, can be seen on the aperture and focusing scales.

DEPTH OF FIELD

Depth of field is the zone of acceptable sharpness from a near point to a far point on either side of the exact focused distance. If you have an adjustable lens nearby, pick it up and examine the depth of field scale as you make changes in both aperture and focused distance. Depth of field doesn't have abrupt cut-off points at the near and far limits shown on the scale. Rather, it is a gradual loss of sharpness as the limits are approached.

The amount of depth of field is determined by two factors: aperture and picture area. The smaller the aperture, the greater the depth of field. Thus, a lens that can be set for f22 will produce more depth of field than a lens set for f16 or any other lower-numbered stop. As a rule of thumb, closing the aperture two stops doubles depth of field.

The larger the picture area photographed, the greater the depth of field. You can increase picture area by either using a wide-angle lens (the most practical method for U/W photography), or by increasing the focused distance and camera-to-subject distance.

Don't be fooled by advertising claims about depth of field. Any two lenses used to photograph the same picture area at the same aperture will yield identical depth of field! But the more expensive lens, however, may be able to produce sharper images with fewer distortions, better contrast and better color.

NORMAL LENSES

Normal lenses for 35 mm cameras have focal lengths ranging from about 40 mm to 58 mm, with a 50 mm lens being the standard for many manufacturers. Normal lenses tend to cover an apparent picture area slightly less than about two feet wide at an apparent distance of three feet, and with about the same perspective that you see with your eye.

A normal lens is good for head and shoulder portraits of divers, fish portraits, and for photographing other relatively small subjects. Normal lenses are a poor choice for large subjects, such as entire divers or groups of divers. Above water, you can step back a few more feet to include Aunt Tilly in your picture, or step back another ten feet for that family portrait. But this isn't practical underwater! Even with good visibility, it's extremely difficult to photograph fine details at distances greater than about five feet. The water and its suspended particles tend to blur pictures, reduce color saturation and reduce contrast.

The exact focal length of a normal lens is equal to the diagonal distance from one corner of the negative to the other.

Thus, the focal length of a "normal lens" varies with the film size. As examples, the diagonal measurements are 47 mm for a 35 mm camera and 20 mm for a 110 camera. Thus a 47 mm lens is normal for a 35 mm camera, and 20 mm lens is normal for a 110 camera.

While the minimum focused distance of normal lenses is about three feet, some close-focusing lenses (called macro, or micro) can be focused as close as a few inches. The Canon 50 mm Macro Lens, and Nikon 55 mm Micro-Nikkor, for example, focus from infinity down to 1:2 image/subject ratio. And, when an extension ring is placed between the camera body and lens, they focus down to 1:1. Such lenses are excellent for U/W close-up photography, but make sure that your housing port is long enough to accommodate an extended close-focusing lens.

MODERATELY WIDE-ANGLE LENSES

A moderately wide-angle lens for a 35 mm camera has a focal length from about 35 mm to 28 mm. The minimum focused distance is 2.75 feet for the Nikonos 35 mm lens, and 2 feet for the Nikonos 28 mm. With lenses for housed 35 mm cameras, the minimum-focused distance varies from about one to two feet.

Covering an apparent picture area of about two and three-fourths by four feet at three apparent feet, these lenses are good for medium-distance shots of divers from the knees or waist up; large fish; or for establishing shots for close-up and macro sequences. The two most common mistakes beginners make with 35 mm and 28 mm lenses are: (1) trying to photograph broad scenic views that require a wide-angle lens, and (2) trying to photograph subjects that are too small and too close for sharp focus.

Many submersible strobes just cover the picture area of a 35 mm lens, and some just barely cover the 28 mm lens. When using such strobes, especially with the 28 mm lens, proper aim can be difficult. The light fall off at the edge of the beam of light can show up in the picture.

WIDE-ANGLE LENSES

Wide-angle lenses are used for photographing large subjects at minimum camera-to-subject distances. For housed 35 mm cameras, wide-angle lenses usually have a focal length of 24 mm or less; and for the Nikonos, a focal length of 20 mm or less. Picture areas can be about four by six apparent feet or larger at three apparent feet.

Reducing camera-to-subject distance increases picture sharpness for three reasons: (1) The fewer the suspended particles between lens and subject, the greater the sharpness and contrast. (2) The shorter the distance, and the greater the picture area, the lesser the blur from

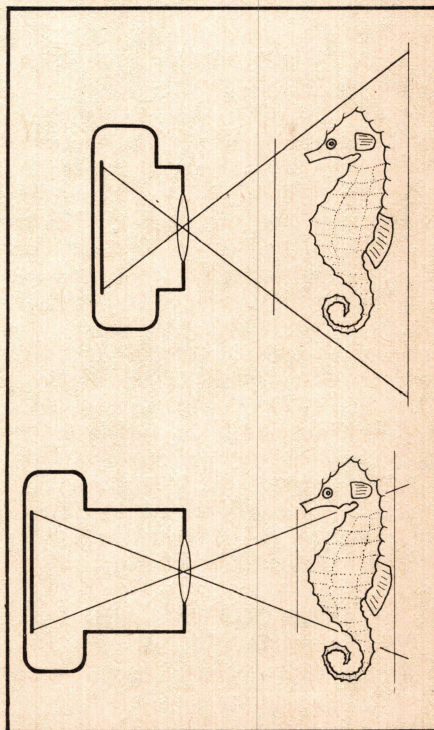
subject and camera movement. And (3), the shorter the light path from strobe to subject and back from subject to camera, the better the color and contrast.

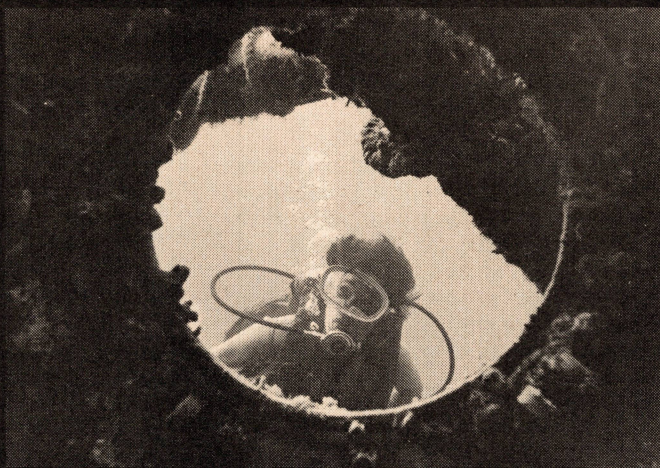
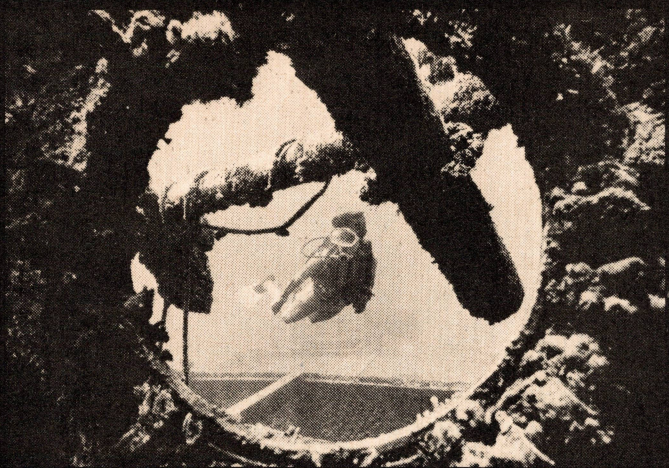
Wide-angle lenses produce wide-angle perspective: Compared to what you see with your eye, near subjects will appear larger than normal on film, and far subjects will appear smaller. Thus, if a diver's hand is reaching out toward the camera lens, the hand will appear enormously large in the picture. This applies to anything protruding toward the camera and is more of a problem when you are photographing at extremely close distances. Also, because distant objects and backgrounds will appear to be smaller and farther away than they really are, the U/W visibility will appear to be greater than it really was.

You can use wide-angle perspective to create large crevices where they don't exist. Use a small crevice, close to the wide-angle lens, to frame a diver several feet away. On film, you will have a small diver exploring a giant crevice.

The three most common errors U/W photographers make with wide-angle lenses are photographing from too far away, photographing subjects that are too small and trying to light a wide-angle picture with a normal-beam, high-powered strobe that usually overexposes the main point of interest. We recommend

Short focal length (wide-angle) lenses allow you to photograph large subjects at close distances. This is important as you reduce the amount of water you are photographing through. Lenses with short focal lengths also have greater depth of field at any given f stop or focused distance than do lenses with longer focal lengths.





Right: Cathy photographed through a porthole with a Nikonos 35 mm lens. The camera was more than two feet from the porthole. The size perspective (of near porthole and far diver) is about the same as your eye would see. **Left:** Same scene with a 15 mm lens held six inches from the porthole. The porthole looms large while Cathy appears much smaller and further away.

getting as close as possible to the subject, choosing subjects that fill the viewfinder and using a wide-beam strobe. These strobes are heavier and bulkier than the normal-beam strobes because they must spread light over a much larger area. For this reason, the larger wide-beam strobe may have an equal or even lower U/W guide number than a much smaller normal-beam strobe.

Wide-angle lenses can also be used for close-ups. A Nikonos 15 mm lens, for example, when focused for one foot, is great for U/W subjects about the size of a basketball. Try it with an angelfish.

TELEPHOTO LENSES

Close-focusing telephoto lenses have focal lengths of about 85 mm or more and can be focused down to image/subject ratios of 1:2 or 1:3. For U/W photography, these are specialty lenses for photographing skitterish critters that you can't approach with a normal close-focusing lens or Nikonos and extension tube. The picture angle of a 105 mm lens is about half that of a 55 mm lens, so the picture area of the 105 is about one-fourth of that of the 55. Thus, you can photograph the same picture area at about twice the camera-to-subject distance. If you have a standard telephoto lens, you can use it with a supplementary close-up lens to reduce focused distance and picture area. Before buying a telephoto lens for U/W photography, make sure that you have (or can obtain) a housing port that will accommodate such a long lens. We will be covering telephoto lenses in greater detail next month.

LENS COATING AND SHARPNESS

The glass surfaces of quality lenses are coated with transparent material to reduce flare, ghost images and increase

contrast. This coating adds to cost, and the quality of the coating may be an important part of the difference between low-priced and high-priced lenses. When you hold a lens at an angle to the light, you may see the coating as a faint rainbow of color on the surface. Don't mistakenly think that this is something you should wipe off!

Lenses usually produce the sharpest images at the middle stops of the aperture range and lose sharpness as you approach the lowest and highest-numbered stops. Yes, f22 produces more depth of field than f11, but f11 may produce a sharper image at the exact focused distance of the lens. Loss of sharpness is more noticeable in the corner areas, and is usually more noticeable with wide-angle lenses.

FLAT PORTS

Many camera housings, amphibious 110 cameras and the Nikonos 35 mm lens have flat ports covering the lens. Because of refraction (bending of light) at the air/glass/water interfaces of the port, the above water picture angle is reduced by three-fourths when the camera is used underwater. This is why air and water picture angle specifications differ.

However, when using a viewfinder camera (as above), if you use the apparent subject sizes and distances that you see underwater, you can think in terms of the above water picture angle. The reduced U/W picture angle only matters if you convert from apparent to measured sizes and distances, which sport photographers rarely do.

(Continued on Page 104)

Before buying a lens, consider picture angle, min/max aperture and minimum focus.

LENSES FOR THE NIKONOS CAMERA

Lens	Focal Length	Picture Angle, air	Picture Angle, U/W	Maximum Aperture	Minimum Aperture	Minimum Focus
Nikonos 80 mm	80 mm	30	22	f4	f22	3.5 ft.
Nikonos 35 mm	35 mm	62	46	f2.5	f22	2.75 ft.
Nikonos 28 mm	28 mm	—	59	f3.5	f22	2 ft.
Nikonos 15 mm	15 mm	—	94	f2.8	f22	1 ft.
Sea & Sea 20 mm	20 mm	—	84	f4	f16	0.25 m

Diagonal picture angles rounded to nearest degree.

ANGLES OF VIEW OF TYPICAL LENSES FOR HOUSED 35 mm CAMERAS (In air)

Focal Length	20	24	28	35	55	105
Diagonal Angle	94	84	74	62	43	23
Horizontal Angle	83	74	64	53	36	19
Vertical Angle	61	53	45	37	24	10

Focal lengths are in millimeters and angles of view are rounded to nearest degrees in air. When using apparent distances U/W and image sizes, you can think in terms of the angles of view in air. When using measured distances and image sizes, the U/W picture angles of lenses behind flat ports will be three-fourths of the picture angles in air. Maximum and minimum apertures, and minimum focused distances will vary with different models and manufacturers.

BAHAMAS

SDM 1983 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



*"An endless chain
of shimmering isles
in a sea of living
corals and fish."*

The Bahamas are some of nature's most magnificent works of art. This remarkable grouping of islands and coral reefs is as unique and beautiful as Yellowstone Park or the Grand Canyon. It comprises one of the few remaining oceanic wilderness areas off the North American continent and is certainly the most gentle.

Much like diamonds spread across blue velvet, the Bahamas are spread over a wide swath of sea from Florida to Cuba. When viewed from above, in an airplane, the sight is dazzling. These marvelous jewels are placed in a setting of kaleidoscopic blue shadings ranging from pale turquoise in the shallows to inky blue beyond the coral drop-offs. There is no sight quite like it.

Aside from their stunning beauty, the Bahamas are very different from the rest of the islands of the Caribbean. While each has its own personality and special undersea attractions, there are certain distin-

guishing features which make this group of islands especially attractive to divers.

First, there is the feeling of immense size. More than 700 islands, 2000 rocks and cays, and over 100,000 square miles of coral reefs make up the Bahamas archipelago. Much of it remains unexplored and untouched by man. There are miles of virgin reefs to explore and chart.

The Bahamas is also an area of fascinating mystery. There are legends and documented stories of strange undersea phenomena. Divers have seen and filmed incredible marches where hundreds-of-thousands of lobsters parade across the sea floor in single file. Divers have witnessed gigantic schools of grouper, with an estimated 10,000 fish in a single school, possibly engaged in some form of mating. There are stories of

The Beautiful **BAHAMAS**



Bimini



Nassau



amas



Eleuthera

divers who have had underwater encounters with sailfish, giant tuna, whales and friendly dolphins. There is even a diver who caught a glimpse of a giant squid. In the Bahamas, anything is possible.

A striking feature of the Bahamas is the remarkable clarity of the water. Underwater visibility of 100 feet is commonplace most everywhere and 200 foot visibility is often found along the deep coral drop-offs. There are many theories as to why the Bahamas enjoy such clear wa-



Harbour Island

ter. Perhaps it is because they are in the open Atlantic rather than the Caribbean basin. Perhaps it is because most of the islands are sparsely populated and unaffected by pollution. Or maybe it is because the Bahamas are low coral cays with no rivers or run-off.

Many traveling divers claim the Bahamas seem to have more fish life than other resorts. These islands appear to be a natural fish-

trap for ocean roaming pelagics that cruise along the coast of North America. The islands are also prolific breeding grounds for groupers, snappers and many other species of coral reef fish. This is evidenced by several well known big game fishing clubs at Bimini, Chub Cay, Walker's Cay and other locations. Many a marlin, sailfish and tuna have been caught in these waters.

Still another impressive aspect of the Bahamas is the tremendous variety of dive facilities and services which exist there. At present, there are 38 dive operations in and around the Bahamas and the num-



Walker's Cay



Freeport



Rum Cay



The Bahamas are noted for their clear waters.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

ber keeps growing. Of this number, 31 are land based dive resort facilities on 19 different islands. The remaining 7 are live-aboard dive boats which cruise among the islands, visiting a variety of reef sites. No other islands offer such a wide scope of scuba services.

LOCATION

The Bahamas are the closest island neighbors to the U.S. with their western boundary only 50 to 60 miles off the Florida coast. It is just a quick hop across the

Gulf Stream to such places as Bimini or the West End of Grand Bahama. It is this proximity to American shores which has made the Bahamas so inviting for vacation bound travelers. Divers, fishermen and yachtsmen flock to the Bahamas by the thousands, using a variety of transportation modes including commercial airlines, private aircraft, charter dive boats, or private yachts. Short travel time and inexpensive flights make the Bahamas an attractive choice for any type of trip, ranging from a weekend jaunt to a

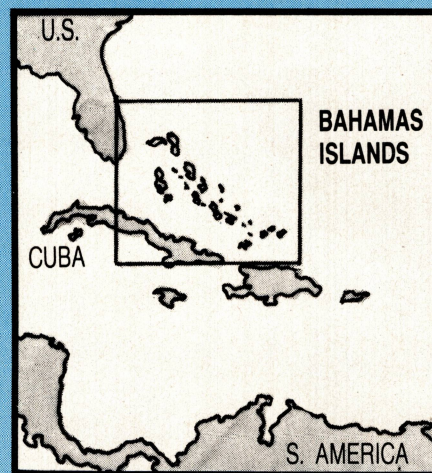
more leisurely two week tour of several islands.

FLIGHTS

Choosing a flight to the Bahamas might seem mind boggling if you attempt to view all of the available options, but it is really quite simple once you understand the basic system. Because of the multitude of islands and airports involved, the Bahamas now has more airlines and more flights coming in from the U.S. than any other island destination in the Caribbean. These flights can be divided into two basic groups—the big commercial jet airliners and the smaller propeller aircraft.

The major Bahamian population centers of Nassau and Freeport have large, modern airports which accommodate jets. Commercial airliners come into these main airports daily from Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, New York and Atlanta. If travelers are bound for smaller islands in the outer regions, they will often fly into Nassau by jet and then transfer to one of the inter-island flights.

Bahamasair probably operates the greatest number of flights into the Bahamas, with departures from Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Atlanta. This airline is the official flag carrier for the Bahamas and op-



erates jets for international service, and smaller aircraft for inter-island flights. Major U.S. carriers serving the Bahamas include American, Air Florida, Eastern and Delta.

In addition to the major jet flights into Nassau and Freeport, many of the smaller Family Islands in the outer areas have developed their own flight service direct from the U.S. to their specific island. These special charter flights utilize all types of aircraft from 44 passenger Convals, to DC-3's, to nine passenger twin Beachcraft. For example, the Riding Rock Inn offers weekly charter flights into San Salvador Island on Saturdays; Rum Cay Club operates Sunday flights; Walk-

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- ☐ Sounds interesting. Send more information.

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Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

It's Better In The Bahamas.

circle #148 on Reader Service Card

er's Cay runs more frequent flights into that island, and the same is true for Small Hope Bay Lodge on Andros, Treasure Cay, Stella Maris, and many others.

Besides the special charter flights for divers, there are several commuter type airlines which serve the Bahamas. They operate small propeller aircraft, but offer more frequent service into the islands. These airlines include: Chalk's Flying Service, TransAir, Aero Coach, Pompano Airways and Walker's Cay Airline.

Last but not least, Bahamasair operates an extensive inter-island flight schedule, with daily flights to almost all the islands in the Bahamas. The inter-is-

All visitors entering the Bahamas by air must have three basic items in their possession: proof of citizenship or passport, return airline tickets and some sort of evidence of sufficient funds for the intended stay in the Bahamas. During the flight into the Bahamas, most passengers are given a Bahamas Immigration Card to fill out and sign. This should be done with a ball-point pen to ensure a legible carbon copy. The Immigration Officer will review the card, sign it, stamp it and give you the carbon copy. Don't lose or throw away the copy. It must be presented to the Immigration Officer again when you are departing the Bahamas.

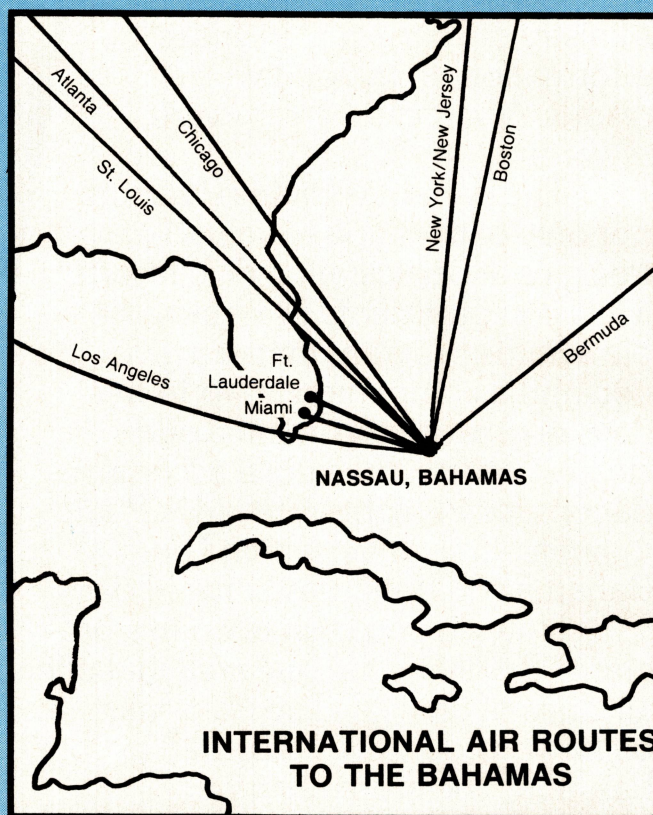
As for Bahamian Customs procedures, visitors are required to make a verbal declaration of the contents of luggage. On occasion, the Customs Inspector may open your bags for a more thorough search. It is against Bahamian law to bring in guns, ammunition, explosives or drugs. There are also regulations and limitations on the amount of cigars, cigarettes and gifts which a visitor may carry.

DRUG LAWS

Under no circumstances should a visitor attempt to carry or smuggle illegal drugs into the Bahamas. Even if you were lucky enough to sneak them by customs,



Every dive in the Bahamas can be a new discovery. Exotic creatures, such as this peppermint stick lobster, are abundant here.



land flights originate from Nassau and their air routes radiate outward from this hub like the spokes of a wheel. A single flight might make two or three stops on different islands, like a milk run. If a visitor is planning to spend several weeks in the Bahamas, touring different islands, Bahamasair is the best way to get around.

CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

Entry into the Bahamas is very simple. U.S. and Canadian citizens are not required to present a passport, you need only show official proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or voter's registration card. Incidentally, a driver's license does not qualify as proof of citizenship.

Direct Air Service to the Bahamas

Origin	Destination	Carrier
Chicago	Nassau	Air Jamaica
New York	Nassau	Delta, Pan Am
Atlanta	Nassau	Delta, Bahamasair
Miami	Nassau	Eastern, Bahamasair, Chalk's
Miami	Bimini	Chalk's
Miami	N. Eleuthera	Air Florida, Pompano Airways
Miami	Marsh Harbour / Treasure Cay	Air Florida, Pompano Airways
Miami	Governor's Harbour	Pompano Airways
Miami	George Town	Air Florida
Miami	Rock Sound	Air Florida
Miami	Freeport	Bahamasair, Eastern, Air Florida
Ft. Lauderdale	Nassau	Chalk's
Ft. Lauderdale	Marsh Harbour / Treasure Cay	Aero Coach, TransAir, Pompano Airways
Ft. Lauderdale	George Town	Aero Coach
Ft. Lauderdale	Governor's Harbour	Pompano Airways
Ft. Lauderdale	N. Eleuthera	Pompano Airways, Bahamasair, TransAir
Ft. Lauderdale	Walker's Cay / Bimini	Walker's Cay Airline
W. Palm Beach	Nassau	Pompano Airways, Chalk's
W. Palm Beach	Marsh Harbour / Treasure Cay	Aero Coach
W. Palm Beach	George Town	Aero Coach
Tampa	Nassau	Bahamasair
Dallas	Nassau	American Airlines

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SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

DIRECTORY OF BAHAMAS DIVE OPERATORS

The following is a list of all dive operators currently in business in the Bahamas. Listed are the name of the operation, key contact for diving and the best address and phone numbers for speedy contact. Phone numbers with an (800) code are toll free; numbers with an (809) area code are overseas phones in the Bahamas.

ABACOS

Walker's Cay Hotel
700 S.W. 34th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315
Cheryl Kirz
(305) 523-4300
(800) 327-3714 US free
(800) 432-2092 FL free

Treasure Cay Beach Hotel
2801 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Joel Pratt
(305) 444-8381
(800) 327-1584 US free
(800) 432-8257 FL free

Elbow Cay Club
Hopetown
Abaco, Bahamas
Bob Maltarp
(809) 367-2748

Dave Gale's Island Marine
Parrot Cay, Hopetown
Abaco, Bahamas
Dave Gale
(809) 367-2822

Dive Abaco Ltd.
Playtime Cruises Ventures
P.O. Box 6284
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310
Skeet & Jane LaChance
(305) 583-8105
(800) 327-7605 US free

Chambered Nautilus Dive Ctr.
P.O. Box 594
Marsh Harbour
Abaco, Bahamas
Dan & Linda Wiltfang
(809) 367-2846

GRAND BAHAMA

Underwater Explorers Society
P.O. Box F2433
Freeport, Grand Bahama
John Englander
(809) 373-1244

Xanadu Divers
P.O. Box F2438
Freeport, Bahamas
Trevor Roberts
(809) 352-6782

Froome & Tostevin Ltd.
Grand Bahama Hotel/West End
148 Port Road, Dept. E
Riviera Beach, FL 33404
Shelby Tostevin
(809) 346-6211

BIMINI ISLANDS

Neal Watson's
Bimini Undersea Adventures
P.O. Box 4960
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338
Neal Watson
(305) 763-2188
(800) 327-8150 US free

BERRY ISLANDS

Chub Cay Club
P.O. Box 661067
Miami Springs, FL 33166
Dick Yax & James White
(305) 445-7830

NASSAU

Bahama Divers, Ltd.
P.O. Box 5004
Nassau, Bahamas
Frank Watson
(809) 322-8431

Carib Divers Ltd.
Loews Harbour Cove
P.O. Box SS5062
Nassau, Bahamas
George Fox, Tyrone Whyhms,
Donahue Stevenson
(809) 325-5561

Diver's Haven
P.O. Box N1658
Nassau, Bahamas
Gardner & Frances Young
(809) 322-4869

Sun Divers Ltd.
P.O. Box N10728
Nassau, Bahamas
Lambert Albury
Steve Sweeting
(809) 322-3301

Coral Harbour Divers
P.O. Box 5529
Nassau, Bahamas
Stuart & Tula Cove
(809) 327-7862

Smuggler's Rest Dive Resort
P.O. Box 486
Weed, NM 88354
Ray & Lyn Post
(303) 694-0159

South Ocean Beach Divers
P.O. Box N8191
Nassau, Bahamas
Grover Moberley
(809) 327-4391

ELEUTHERA

Spanish Wells Dive Center
c/o Island Marketing
P.O. Box 535

Pompano Beach, FL 33061
Lill Campbell
(305) 463-9130
(800) 327-3139

Romora Bay Club
P.O. Box 2617
Stuart, FL 33495
Jef Fox & Roger Ironside
(305) 287-8293
(800) 327-8286 US free

Valentine's Dive Center
P.O. Box 1
Harbour Island
Eleuthera, Bahamas
John Valentine
Chauncy Chapman
(809) 333-2142

Club Med Scuba School
40 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
(212) 977-2100
(800) 528-3100

Winding Bay Dive Center
P.O. Box 93
Rock Sound
Eleuthera, Bahamas
(809) 334-2020

ANDROS

Small Hope Bay Lodge
P.O. Box N1131
Nassau, Bahamas
Dick & Rosi Birch
(809) 328-2014
(800) 327-3139 US free

EXUMA CAYS

Staniel Cay Divers
1640 S.E. 7th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
Bill Crawford
Marcus Mitchell
(305) 467-6850
(800) 327-3011 US free

Exuma Divers Company
P.O. Box 152
Georgetown
Exuma, Bahamas
Wendle McGregor
(809) 336-2170

SAN SALVADOR ISLAND

Riding Rock Inn Resort
c/o AT Reef Ventures
292 S.W. 34th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315
Dick Batchelder
(305) 524-0106
(800) 327-7333 US free

STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris Inn
c/o Associated Air Services
701 S.W. 48th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315
Jorge Friese & Peter Kuska
(305) 467-0466

RUM CAY

Rum Cay Diving Club
30 Colpitts Road
Weston, MA 02193
Lois Jones & Tom Ebro
(617) 894-8084

CROOKED ISLAND

Pittstown Point Landing Inn
c/o Bahamas Caribbean Intl.
P.O. Box 9831
Mobile, AL 36691
Dale Cady & Clinton Scavella
(205) 666-4482

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Miami, FL 33152
Bruce & Peggy Purdy
(305) 888-1226
(800) 327-9600 US free

The Ketch LEO
Caribbe Cruises
68 Pineland Drive
Smyrna, GA 30080
Capt. Bob Newton
(404) 432-0213

D/V BOTTOM TIME
Bottom Time Adventures
P.O. Box 030100
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33303
A.J. Bland
(305) 524-8352

M/V IMPOSSIBLE DREAM
Seaventures International
P.O. Box 3271
Indianapolis, FL 32903
Dan & Inez Wagner
(305) 723-9312

Passagemaker Cruises
1095 N.E. 83rd Street
Miami, FL 33138
Ed Cook
(305) 751-8806

R/V SEA DRAGON
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Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
Dan Doyle

Bahamas Dive Travel

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WALKER'S Cay

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Dive Travel

By Amy Brown

Romantic Retreat on Harbour Island

The Romora Bay Club is the sort of romantic hideaway often sought, but rarely found. Perched amid swaying palms on a hillside, the resort overlooks the blue-green bay of Harbour Island, just off the coast of North Eleuthera in the Bahamas. Charmingly fashioned from a former estate, this intimate resort of 25 rooms spans 550 yards to front both the beach and the harbor.

The owners, NAUI instructor Roy Schmidt, wife Moyra and family, are gracious and attentive hosts. Private waterfront cottages nestle among the foliage, a crescent of pink and white sand shimmers, and an open beachside lounge provides a vista of seaquenched sunsets. One can dine on gourmet fare accented with island specialties inside or outside of a Bahamian-styled diningroom, or feast on buffet luncheons and evening cookouts on a waterfront patio.

Numerous and varied dive sites are just 5 to 20 minutes from the Club's dock. The Devil's Backbone reef, which thrusts its crest above the low tide, is a graveyard for interesting wrecks, including the remains of a train toppled from a sinking barge. On the contrasting eastern side of the island, deeply creviced, large coral mountains 50 to 90 feet in depth form the Plateau, which is loaded with stony corals, vibrant tube sponges and teeming fish. Visibility is 100 feet or better. The Glass Window is a shallow dive where limestone formations create a haven for schooling fish. A coral archway 100 feet across marks Miller's Reef.

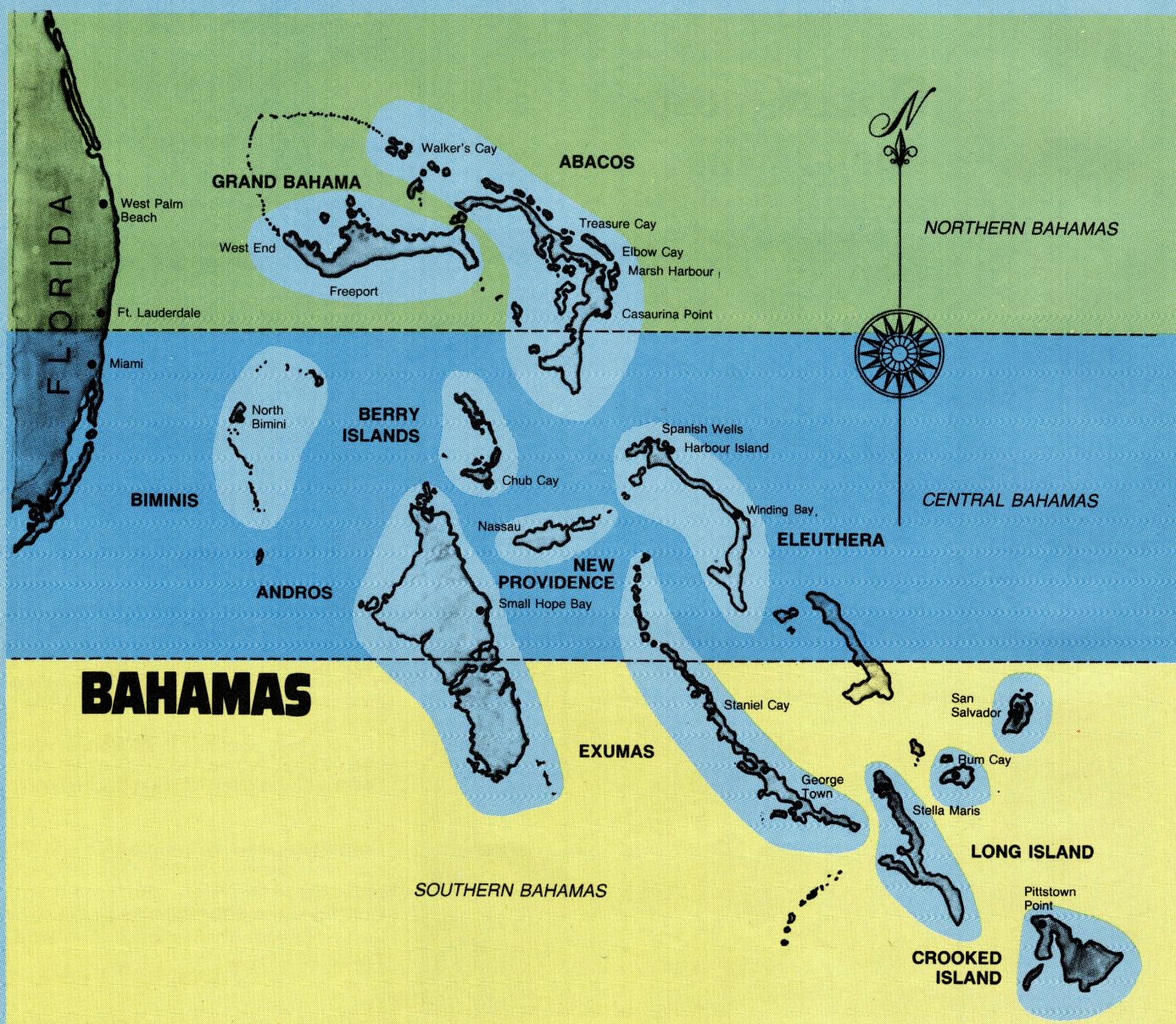
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The beauty of the Bahamas is a subtle blend of living coral reefs and flashes of schooling fish.



there is a good chance you would be turned in by a maid, waitress, bartender or other observant citizen. Drugs are a very touchy subject with the Bahamians. Their drug laws are severe by U.S. standards and the law is vigorously enforced. It does not matter whether the violator is caught with a half-ounce of marijuana or a whole kilo of cocaine—possession of any drug is still a major crime. Offenders are promptly arrested. Penalties can range from immediate deportation, to confiscation of plane or boat, to large fines and jail sentences.

CLIMATE

The Bahamas have often been described as the "Isles of Eternal Summer." The weather is balmy year-round, with warm sunny days in the winter and light ocean breezes in the hot summer months.

Winter temperatures range from 68 to 78° F and there is sufficiently strong sun for a deep tan. There is likely to be a little more breeze in the winter, but it doesn't inhibit the diving. From November through April, the water temperatures drop to 76° F and a wetsuit jacket or shorty is helpful.

Summer temperatures range from 78 to 88° F, but there is frequently a slight ocean breeze for natural cooling. The water temperature rises to 82° F. From July through September, there are often windless periods when the ocean gets glassy calm for several days and the diving is phenomenal. Also, the fall months of September and October usually offer superb dive conditions.

WHAT TO WEAR

The type of clothes you pack for the Bahamas depends on which islands you plan to visit. If you are going to Nassau or Freeport, a more formal wardrobe might be in order if you plan to visit the gambling casinos, dine out or go shopping. Lightweight slacks, dress type sportshirts and a sportcoat would be appropriate.

The smaller resorts on the outer regions of the Family Islands are much less formal. T-shirts, jeans, shorts and sandals are generally the dress of the day. Casual slacks and a lightweight shirt are fine for the evening. Visitors are wise to bring along a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen lotion.

MONEY

The Bahamas have their own system of currency which is very similar to that of the U.S.. One Bahamian dollar is equal to an American dollar, so there is no problems figuring out conversion rates. Most Bahamian businesses and taxi drivers will happily accept U.S. dollars anyway, although they may have to give you change in Bahamian currency. In addition to widespread acceptance of U.S. dollars, most Bahamian hotels and large restaurants will accept traveler's checks and major credit cards.

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ELECTRICITY

The Bahamas run on the same kind of electrical power as the U.S.—120 volts AC at 60 cycles. Visitors can use their electric razors and hair dryers without the need for special converters or adapters. Divers will find it fairly easy to recharge the batteries for their underwater lights and photographic gear. However, it is a good idea to check with the hotel management or dive shop before plugging in any charging equipment.

GEOGRAPHY

It is difficult to comprehend the immense size and scope of the Bahamas. These islands are spread out in a great

Each has a general name (such as Exumas) but may be comprised of a dozen or more islands and cays.

In the Northern Bahamas, there are two major island groups—the Abacos and Grand Bahama Island. The Abacos encompass a variety of dive resort locations such as: Walker's Cay, Treasure Cay, Elbow Cay, Hopetown and Marsh Harbour. Grand Bahama Island is the home of Freeport, plus one resort at the West End.

The Central Bahamas are comprised of a much greater number of island groups. To the east there are the Biminis and the Berry Islands. To the west there is Eleuthera and the Exuma Cays. And, in the center, you'll find Nassau (New Provi-

Abaco

The Abacos are a major group of islands in the northeast corner of the Bahamas. They stretch out in a long thin elbow-shaped line for 130 miles and face the open Atlantic. There is one very large island called Great Abaco as well as several dozen small islands and cays bordering the outside edge. This is where most of the small settlements, resorts, hotels and marinas are found. The main airport is on Great Abaco, near Marsh Harbour, but there is a second large airport just recently completed near Treasure Cay. In addition, Walker's Cay has its own small landing strip.

The Abacos are extremely picturesque with many tiny colonial settlements and well kept homes in a storybook setting. These little villages appear much the same today as when they were built over 100 years ago. It is a lovely area for the casual snorkeler or diver who wants to mix a little underwater pleasure with a well rounded vacation of sightseeing, sailing, fishing and general relaxation. While the Abacos do not offer any drop-offs, there are many splendid coral reefs in the shallow water, plus a national underwater park. There are also many fascinating coral cave and tunnel formations as well as a couple of historic shipwrecks. At present, there are six dive operators in the Abacos.

WALKER'S CAY is a tiny island resort at the northernmost end of the Abacos chain. There is just enough room on this 100 acre island for a hotel, marina and airstrip. The resort has its own dive shop and dive boat for hotel guests. Morning and afternoon dive trips are offered.

The most impressive underwater attraction is a giant complex of underwater coral caves and tunnels known as **Nick's Caverns**. The entire coral reef is honeycombed with interconnecting passageways and fascinating chambers at a depth of 35 feet. **Queen's Reef** is a broad sprawling coral reef which covers 50 acres of seafloor with depths to 60 feet. **Jeanette's Reef** is a series of coral ridges separated by sand channels at a depth of 45 feet.

TREASURE CAY BEACH HOTEL is a large elegant country club style resort on Great Abaco, 30 miles north of Marsh Harbour. This resort offers the full range of vacation activities including golf, tennis, sailing and swimming. A dive center is on the resort premises next to the marina. One of the best dives in the Treasure Cay area is an amazing underwater coral cove complex called **The Catacombs**. This consists of 100 different caves interconnected by a series of tunnels and archways—all at depths of 10 to 25 feet.

A short distance away lies the remains of a historical Civil War shipwreck called the **San Jacinto**. It is a 140 foot long



The Bahamas are best noted for their friendly groupers.

arc 750 miles long and stretching from a latitude even with Palm Beach to a point well past Cuba. The chain lies on a diagonal running northwest to southeast.

The Bahamas can be divided into three basic geographic zones: the Northern Bahamas, the Central Bahamas and the Southern Bahamas. These zones are so large and spread so far apart that they frequently experience different weather patterns. It can be raining in one part of the Bahamas and quite sunny in another.

Within each geographic zone, there are two or more large island groups.

dence Island) and Andros. There are 18 different dive operators within the Central Bahamas.

The Southern Bahamas are comprised of singular islands instead of groups, but there are many of them. The ones with dive operators include: Great Exuma (George Town), Long Island (Stella Maris), Rum Cay, San Salvador Island and Crooked Island.

In this supplement we shall begin in the Northern Bahamas and work our way southward, describing the diving in each of the resort islands where it is available.

Union gunboat which crashed into the reefs in 1865 while in hot pursuit of a Confederate blockade runner. The remaining wreckage of this steel-hulled steamer includes; the propeller, boilers, crankshaft and parts of the main decking. Dive depths range from 20 to 50 feet and the wreck is loaded with fish.

Marsh Harbour is the central hub of the Abacos. Clustered together near the elbow portion of this large island are a number of small cays, marinas, hotels and of course Marsh Harbour itself, the third largest city in the Bahamas. There are three dive operators in this area and each offers distinctly different service. DIVE ABACO LTD. is at the Marsh Harbour Marina and operated by Skeet LaChance. This is an independent dive operation which provides services for four or five surrounding hotels, plus visiting yachts. ISLAND MARINE is the second operation on Parrot Cay Near Hopetown. It is a combination boat rental, outboard repair and dive shop. Owner Dave Gale rents Boston Whalers, fills tanks and occasionally conducts guided reef trips. Bob Maltarp has a fairly new dive operation at the ELBOW CAY CLUB in the Hopetown area.

Diving in the Marsh Harbour area consists of shallow to medium depth reef exploration, snorkeling, underwater photography and a wreck dive. **Guana Cay Reef** offers excellent medium depth coral reef diving with many inquisitive groupers. **Fowl Cay Reef** is great for both snorkeling and underwater photography. **Sandy Cay Reef** has spectacular elk-horn and brain coral formations. **Maxi Cave** is a coral ravine which ends in a large coral grotto at 25 feet. **Sandy Cay** is a splendid coral garden at the south end of Pelican Cay National Preserve. One of the most fascinating dives in the Abacos is a Civil War wreck known as the **U.S.S. Adirondack**. This 200 foot long steam powered sloop was a Union gunboat which crashed into the reef at night in 1862. The wreck lies in 10 to 25 feet of water and its most prominent features are two giant Dahlgren cannons which measure 15 feet in length and have an 11 inch bore. These were the largest guns carried on a warship during the Civil War period.

Twenty miles south of Marsh Harbour is a unique resort called the CASUARINA POINT CLUB. A group of seven beach front homes have been converted to family style vacation villas, complete with a restaurant, cocktail lounge and dive shop. Owner Dan Wiltfang conducts daily dive trips to nearby reefs using inflatable dive boats. The coral reefs of this region are almost virgin and marine life is abundant. **Top Tree Reef** is a lovely snorkeling area loaded with schooling fish and living corals. **Kerr Rocks** is a superb medium depth reef with many tame morays and friendly octopuses.

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Grand Bahama

Grand Bahama is a large singular island in the northwest corner of the Bahamas. It faces the Gulf Stream and is bordered on the south side by the very deep Northwest Providence Channel. This island's greatest claim to fame is the modern resort community of Freeport, now the second largest city in the Bahamas. Designed and built in the last 25 years, this vacation mecca consists of beautifully landscaped streets, luxury hotels, stylish high rise condominiums and a marvelous freeport shopping area. Over 60 tennis courts and many championship golf courses make it a sportsman's delight. Evening activities include the excitement of posh gambling casinos and a choice of over 20 fine restaurants.

Freeport is also the home of the world famous UNDERWATER EXPLORERS SOCIETY (UNEXSO), the largest underwater training facility in the Bahamas. It includes an 18 foot deep training tank and indoor classroom which can hold up to 25 students, and an Olympic sized swimming pool for instruction. There are scuba storage lockers for students and club members as well as showers, an exercise room and a sauna. UNEXSO has its own docking facilities with two large dive boats that make five trips daily. The club even has a four man decompression chamber for underwater medical symposiums. Upstairs there is a divers' lounge with music and films nightly. UNEXSO specializes in a wide selection of underwater education programs. Training courses range from basic scuba certification to advanced diver and scuba instructor. Speciality classes include decompression diving, basic underwater photography and blue hole exploration.

The major difference between Freeport and the Abacos is the availability of drop-off diving. Freeport has several spectacular vertical walls which offer superior visibility and impressive sponges. One very unique deep dive is a site called **The Cup Handle**, an oddly shaped coral formation which juts outward from the vertical face of the drop-off. This coral archway is shaped much like the handle of a giant teacup with an inside diameter large enough for a scuba diver to swim through easily. The formation hangs out over the abyss with gorgonian fans, sponges and corals covering everything. Because of the depth, this spot is restricted to expert divers who have graduated from UNEXSO's Decompression Diving Course.

Freeport also offers a wide selection of shallow to medium depth coral reefs. **Littlehales' Lair** is a massive coral reef formation at 80 feet. **The Caves** is a splendid reef site in 60 feet of water. **Treasure Reef** is a beautiful coral reef

garden which is ideal for snorkeling.

Other unique attractions at Freeport are the inland blue holes which are within driving distance of UNEXSO. Guests are taken by van to a wooded area where a large hole in the forest marks the entrance to a beautiful and bizarre system of subterranean wonderland, called **Ben's Caves**. A crystal clear pool in an underground cavern leads divers to a fantasy journey among underwater stalactites and stalagmites, some of which are 20 feet in length. The main underwater chamber is over 200 feet long and leads to a winding series of tunnels and succeeding caverns.

The newest and most exciting dive at Freeport is a sunken ship called **Theo's Wreck**. This obsolete 230 foot steel cargo ship was deliberately sunk in 100 feet of water last year as part of an artificial reef experiment. The giant ship now lies on its port side close to the edge of the drop-off at the famous **Grand Bahama Ledge**. Divers can sit on the rudder of the ship and look out over the drop-off into 2000 feet of water. The wreck has already begun to attract a great deal of interesting marine life, including many schools of pelagic fish.

Bimini Islands

Bimini is a small cluster of islands in the central Bahamas on the western edge of this archipelago. These are the islands closest to the United States; they lie only

42 miles east of Miami. It is this proximity to America which has made Bimini almost a household word among vacationing Floridians. It is a popular weekend haunt for fishermen, sailors, yachtsmen and divers as well.

Bimini actually consists of two main islands plus a number of smaller cays and rocks. South Bimini is a sparsely populated island with an international airport for commercial flights. Visitors must take a taxi from the airport to the dock and then cross the channel by ferry. On the other side is North Bimini, with its quaint arrangement of small hotels, boat docks, restaurants and bars along the main drag.

Bimini is also the home of NEAL WATSON'S UNDERSEA ADVENTURES, a rapidly growing enterprise which has become the second largest dive service in the Bahamas. The dive shop is right at the dock next to Brown's Hotel with three dive boats berthed directly in front. Owned and operated by Neal Watson, this facility specializes in dive groups, with attractively priced scuba packages for weekend junkets, as well as full one week vacations. Neal is an independent operator who works with both Brown's Hotel and the Bimini Big Game Club.

Bimini offers a wide variety of dive experiences ranging from snorkeling among shallow sea gardens to adventurous drift dives along the edge of the vertical drop-off. The **Concrete Ship** is the towering hulk of a 350 foot long World War I cement ship which grounded in the shallows during a hurricane. She stands upright in 15 feet of water and provides a unique opportunity for snorkeling. **Turtle Rocks** is a medium depth reef with

Seafans and soft corals create a veritable Garden of Eden on the shallow reefs.



two giant brain corals and a small coral cave inhabited by a jewfish. The **Kinks** is a high profile reef in 65 feet of water with many coral canyons and crevices.

The dive site which takes the prize is a breathtaking drift dive, **The Continental Shelf**. Barely 10 minutes from the boat dock lies the edge of a spectacular drop-off which borders the Gulf Stream. The wall begins at 90 feet and is almost a sheer vertical descent. Visibility exceeds 200 feet and the Gulf Stream current ranges from two to five miles per hour. Neal locates the edge of the wall with a depth finder and then hangs a 140 foot anchor line from a drifting inflatable dinghy. Divers descend the anchor line and hang on as they sail along the vertical face of the wall for an effortless yet mind boggling undersea experience.

The upper edge of the drop-off is covered with a thick growth of gorgonians. Beneath the fans are slender purple tube sponges, magnificent black coral trees and giant basket sponges. The fish action is spectacular; 60 pound groupers eyeball the divers as they drift by. Divers often spot giant tunas, schools of amberjacks and large eagle rays cruising along the drop-off.

Berry Islands

Nineteen miles east of Bimini is a larger group of islands and sand banks known as the Berry Islands. This area is still undeveloped and much of it remains uncharted for diving. Chub Cay is one small island at the southern tip of the Berry Islands. It is perched at the very edge of a deep water channel known as the Tongue of the Ocean. One of nature's great fish traps, it consistently attracts unusual marine life including sailfish, marlin, manta rays and other ocean roaming creatures.

The CHUB CAY CLUB is a totally self-sufficient resort facility complete with its own electric power and desalinization plant. It is a private club facility which boasts a large marina for game fishing boats and yachts. Also located at this facility is a small dive operation which caters to both guests and visiting dive groups. The hotel has its own airfield for charter flights and private aircraft.

Chub Cay is particularly popular for its spectacular wall diving. **Chub Cay Wall** is a vertical drop-off where schools of horse-eye jack, crevalle jack, and eagle rays are often seen. **Canyons and Caves** is a medium depth reef system honeycombed with narrow crevices, small caves, and canyons. This is an exceptionally beautiful formation with lush marine life. **Mama Rhoda Rock** is a sprawling shallow coral reef loaded with

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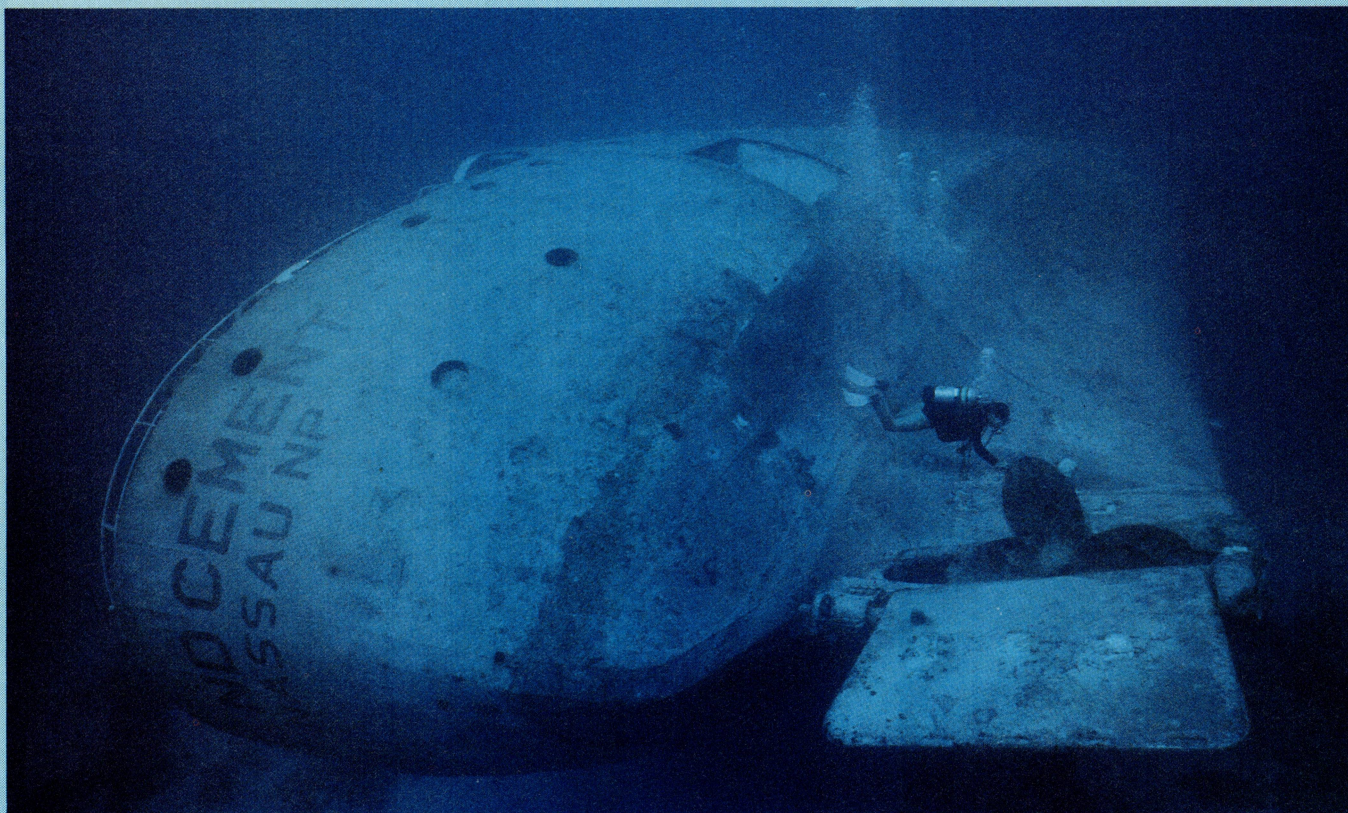
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photo/Jerry Schnabel

Theo's Wreck is the newest U/W attraction in Freeport. This recently sunk 230 foot cargo ship is already attracting many fish.

elkhorn and staghorn. It is considered one of the best snorkeling areas in the Berry Islands. **Chub Point** is a busy intersection for schooling fish and visitors are often delighted by the continuous parade of marine life.

Nassau

Nassau is both the capital of the Bahamas and the largest city among these islands. It is on the island of New Providence in almost the center of the chain. The charm and fascination of Nassau includes horse and buggy rides along 300 year old streets, shopping at the world famous straw market and a tour of an 18th century British fort. It is also a major vacation center, with more hotels and recreational facilities than any other island in the Bahamas. There are two major gambling casinos, several large marinas, numerous tennis courts and several excellent golf courses.

For the purpose of diving, New Providence Island can be basically divided into two areas. The north side of the island is populated by four different dive operators clustered around the downtown Nassau area. On the south side of the island there are three more dive operations, in the South Ocean Beach and Coral Harbour areas.

On the north side, BAHAMA DIVERS LTD. is in the shopping arcade of the Pilot House Hotel. It is primarily a tourist/diver

facility which operates daily boat trips for snorkelers and divers staying at many of the resort hotels. CARIB DIVERS LTD. is a small personalized dive operation at Loews Harbour Cove. It caters to the guests staying at the hotel. SUN DIVERS LTD. is a scuba and snorkeling dive service right on the premises of the Sheraton British Colonial Hotel. It operates daily dive trips to nearby reefs as well as resort scuba classes. DIVER'S HAVEN is at Yacht Haven, next door to the Pilot House Hotel. It is a combination dive shop, scuba school and reef tour service. The shop has a full inventory of dive equipment plus a classroom and training pool directly behind the store.

The Nassau area of New Providence Island offers a fine selection of shallow to medium depth coral reefs, plus a couple of interesting wreck dives. **Rose Island** is one of the most popular locations for beginning scuba divers and snorkelers as well. **Green Cay Reef** is a 35 foot reef with beautiful elkhorn and staghorn formations. **Paradise Island Caves** is a very fine spot in 50 feet of water which offers an opportunity to explore undercut ledges and photograph reef fish. The **Ma-honey Wreck** is a large steel shipwreck in 30 feet of water which offers a good chance to pet Nassau groupers and photograph moray eels. **The Deep Ma-honey** is a separate section of the ship's stern which lies in 60 feet of water and contains a greater abundance of fish life. Other sites include **Iron Bound Rock**, **The LCT Wreck**, and **Porpoise Rocks**.

The dive operations on the south side

of New Providence Island can be found toward the west end. Perhaps the most impressive is SOUTH OCEAN BEACH DIVERS, a reef diving service on the beach of the elegant South Ocean Beach Hotel. This giant country-club style resort is on a sprawling 5000 acre estate which includes an 18 hole PGA Championship Golf Course and clubhouse. The resort has a 120 room hotel, cordial dining room, cocktail lounge, swimming pool, four tennis courts and a lovely white sand beach. South Ocean Beach Divers is a full service dive center operated by Grover Moberly. The shop is equipped with a large air compressor, aluminum scuba tanks and a unique 44 foot customized house boat which can comfortably carry 20 divers. Dive trips are conducted twice daily and night dives are run on special request. This dive operation is fortunate to be at the end of the island closest to some of the finest drop-offs around New Providence Island.

Clifton Wall is a beautiful drop-off beginning at 35 feet and has excellent purple tube sponge formations. **Tunnel Wall** is quite a different drop-off with giant crevices and many winding tunnels. **Ruddy's Reef** is another fine drop-off with a coral garden along the top. **Goulding Cay** is perhaps the most impressive elkhorn coral forest you will find anywhere in the Bahamas. **Lyford Cay Wall** starts at 60 feet and plummets to over 2000. The wall is loaded with black coral, tube sponges and many large pelagic fish.

SMUGGLER'S REST DIVE RESORT is an ideal facility for the economy minded

diver seeking inexpensive accommodations but plenty of diving. This guest house facility is on a boat canal in the Coral Harbour area. The resort consists of a number of separate bungalows holding two to four beds each. It can accommodate up to 26 guests. The resort has two air compressors and two dive boats. Dive sites are approximately 40 minutes away from the resort and the boat trips are usually a full day session with lunch on board. This resort has its own selection of dive sites in the Coral Harbour area. Two of the best wall diving locations are **The Slide** and **The Cliff**. Coral reef dives include **The Grotto** and a place called **Pumpkin Patch**. One of the best locations for fish action is **South-west Reef**. A place called **The Ramp** is a 40 foot deep coral reef which is particularly good for night dives.

Andros

Just 20 miles west of Nassau is the giant island of Andros, the largest land mass in the Bahamas chain. Much of its rugged interior remains untamed. There are only a few settlements along the eastern coast and its greatest natural resource is a 142 mile long barrier reef which stretches the length of the island.

Two miles north of Andros Town is SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE. This is a very special kind of resort with cordial atmosphere and an unhurried pace. Lodge owners Dick and Rosie Birch treat visitors as personal friends and guests in their home. Nestled under a stand of pine trees this little resort consists of 20 private cabins, a main lodge and a boutique. Small Hope maintains its own dive center complete with air compressor, tanks and two dive boats.

Probably the best dive at Small Hope Bay is a drop-off named **Over The Wall**. The top of this vertical cliff begins at 70 feet and drops straight away to an incredible depth of 6000 feet. **Love Hill** is a marvelous coral garden in ten feet of water which provides superb snorkeling. **The Barge** is the wreck of a sunken WW II Navy Landing Craft which sits upright in 70 feet of water and is inhabited by a large number of friendly groupers, yellowtails and moray eels. **The Wall** is perhaps the most popular drop-off dive, beginning at 70 feet and offering visibility over 200 feet. **Turnbull's Gut** is a deep coral canyon which opens onto a vertical drop-off filled with a dazzling array of sponges, corals and soft gorgonians.

Eleuthera

Forty miles west of Nassau lies Eleuthera, another major island in the Baha-



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mas chain. This boomerang shaped island is over 100 miles long and faces into the open Atlantic. In addition to the main island, there are a number of smaller islands clustered around the northern end. These include Spanish Wells, Harbour Island and Current Island. The diving at Eleuthera is basically divided into two areas—the north and the south end of the island—and there are six dive operators there.

SPANISH WELLS BEACH RESORT is a fairly new development in dive operators for Eleuthera. This operation consists of two hotels on the small island of Spanish Wells, off the north tip of Eleuthera. A complete dive center is at the hotel closest to the boat pier. The resort is managed by Lill Campbell. There are three dive boats, four dive guides and a complete compressor system. Dive trips are conducted twice daily and night dives can be made upon request.

mile outside Current Cut. The unique feature of this formation is a five foot wide crevice which goes right through the coral head and is covered with encrusting sponges and small corals. Other notable dive spots include: **The Freighter Wreck, Dutch Bars, Egg Island Wall, The Trawler Wreck** and **The Gardens**.

Harbour Island is a distinguished resort island which lies two miles off Eleuthera's northeast corner. Settled over 200 years ago by American colonists from New England, this picturesque community has become a quiet and relaxing hideaway. Despite its small and intimate dimensions, Harbour Island is a popular choice for divers and features no less than two complete dive resorts.

ROMORA BAY is perched on a hillside with a beautiful view of the bay. Each guest bungalow is tastefully decorated in a different motif. VALENTINE'S YACHT CLUB AND INN is at the water's edge

up from 90 feet to within 40 feet of the surface. It is loaded with beautiful corals and seafans and has been turned into a popular fish feeding station by the dive-masters. Visitors are mobbed by friendly groupers, yellowtail snapper, angelfish and other reef dwellers seeking a hand-out. **The Glass Window** is a peculiar shallow water dive at the base of a towering cliff which has partially tumbled into the sea. The bottom is littered with gigantic stone boulders weighing up to 50 tons. Perfectly round holes have been drilled into the rocky bottom by rolling stones and wave action. **Miller's Reef** is another coral plateau which features a stunning coral archway. The **Cienfuegos Wreck** is the remains of a passenger steamer which sank in 1895. In shallow water, its prominent features include a big boiler, main drive shaft and a jumbled mass of broken ribs and steel plates. A large green moray eel has made this



The coral reefs of the Bahamas are honeycombed with U/W caves, tunnels and grottoes—awaiting the diver's probing light.

The dive spots around Spanish Wells are exceptionally diversified and include several unusual attractions. The most thrilling is **Current Cut**, which is a drift dive through a narrow pass between two islands. The tidal flow can range between two and five knots and divers shoot through the cut at depths varying from 30 to 60 feet. The cut is filled with an incredible array of marine life including schools of spotted eagle rays and horse-eye jacks, giant barracuda, big groupers and friendly stingrays. **Split Reef** is a very beautiful high coral head just one-half

and is a combination yacht facility, cozy hotel and dive shop. Owned and operated by Jack Valentine, this establishment caters to individuals, couples and small dive groups. There is a fully equipped dive shop with a compressor, rental tanks and three dive boats. Trips to the reef are conducted twice daily.

There are at least 30 different dive locations in the Harbour Island area and guests have a fine selection of underwater experiences. **The Plateau** is perhaps the most striking dive site and also the most popular. A large coral plateau rises

wreck its home.

At the southern end of Eleuthera is the vacation area of Rock Sound. It has long been a favorite with tourists who want to get away from the snow and ice up north. WINDING BAY RESORT is one of the Rock Sound group which has become a year-round hotel and offers diving as well. On the Atlantic side, this beachfront colony of secluded cottages offers a well rounded vacation package including tennis, sailing, fishing and diving.

Diving in the Winding Bay area consists of mostly shallow to medium depth

coral reef exploration. **Beginner's Reef** is a snorkeling reef in 2 to 15 feet of water. **Finger Reef** is a larger coral formation in 35 feet of water. **Horseshoe Cave** is a 120 foot long coral reef tunnel which curves through the reef in a U-shaped configuration. **Ocean Ledge** is a deeper reef site consisting of coral ledges in 70 to 90 feet of water.

Exuma Cays

The last major island group in the Central Bahamas are the Exumas, a 90 mile long necklace of small cays and islands southeast of Nassau. Most of these islands are unspoiled and uninhabited. They represent a sparkling slice of natural wilderness for the exploring yachtsman, fisherman or diver. At present, there are only two dive operators in the Exumas.

STANIEL CAY DIVERS is a new operation at a small island hotel and marina on Staniel Cay. This new dive center is halfway down the Exuma chain near one

Bahamian Fisheries Laws That Affect Diving

1

No marine product (conch, crawfish, scalefish, coral, etc.) may be taken with the use of underwater breathing apparatus (scuba, surface compressor, etc.).

2

A snorkel diver may only use an Hawaiian sling or pole spear. Any other powered speargun may not be used.

3

The export of any marine product is illegal unless a permit is issued (this prevents American boats from spearfishing or taking coral, then returning to the States with marine products).

4

No toxic product may be used to kill or catch fish.

5

Protected areas. No marine product may be taken from the north coast of New Providence from Goulding Cay in the west to a line drawn between the eastern tip of Atholl Island and the eastern end of New Providence, and inside of a line drawn through the fringing islands.

No commercial fishing is allowed in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. A daily quota of fish may be taken by each boat (see Bahamas National Trust By-Laws).

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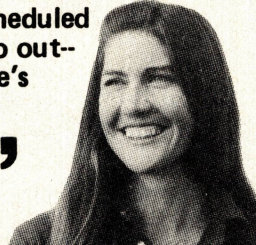
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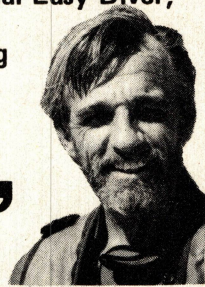
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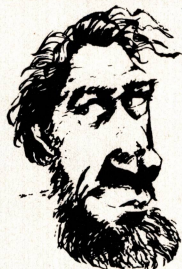
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of the undersea phenomena of the Bahamas. This dive center is operated by Bill Crawford, formerly from Key Largo. There is an air compressor, tanks and a dive boat which makes regularly scheduled reef trips.

The major attraction at Staniel Cay is **Thunderball Grotto**, a large submerged cavern less than one mile from the dive center. This unique formation is inside a small island and is comprised of a submerged grotto and seven different exits to the open sea. The interior of the cave is over 100 feet long and two-thirds of the grotto is above water at low tide. Divers can snorkel or scuba dive into the grotto and explore the many forms of marine life which live there. In addition to Thunderball grotto, there are many shallow coral reefs on the inside edge of Staniel Cay. The more exciting diving is to be found in

worked at several other dive resorts before starting his own business. Wendle provides basic scuba instruction and daily dive trips for guests staying at the OUT ISLAND INN and the PEACE AND PLENTY HOTEL. He has a compressor, rental tanks and two dive boats.

The diving around George Town is mostly snorkeling, with shallow to medium depth coral reefs. One of the more unique attractions of this area is a series of ocean blue holes of varying sizes and depths. **Stingray Reef** is a large coral reef, in a cut between two islands, which offers a surprising variety of schooling fish. **Angelfish Blue Hole** is an ocean blue hole which slants, on a 45 degree angle, to a depth of 90 feet. A school of 15 large angelfish is frequently seen around the entrance to this tunnel. **Mystery Cave** is another ocean blue hole,



U/W photography is a popular activity in the Bahamas and there are now more than a half-dozen U/W photo labs at dive resorts.

the channels between Staniel Cay and neighboring islands. Excellent wall diving is also available on the outside or Exuma Sound side of the island.

At the southern end of the Exuma chain, visitors will find George Town, the largest settlement in the Exumas. This friendly resort community has an international airport, several hotels and a natural harbor.

George Town is the home of the EXUMA DIVING COMPANY, an independent dive charter service operated by Wendle McGregor. Originally from Andros, Wendle has been diving for 17 years and

consisting of a horizontal tunnel which runs under Stocking Island for a distance of more than 400 feet.

Stella Maris

Twenty-six miles east of George Town is the northern tip of Long Island and the home of the large resort hotel complex called STELLA MARIS INN. The resort

consists of a dozen or so buildings set on the side of a hill overlooking the Atlantic. Facilities include a dining room, cocktail lounge, three swimming pools, two tennis courts, a private beach and a large marina. The hotel can accommodate up to 120 people. Owned and operated by three Germans (Jorge, Peter and Gerd), this international resort caters to both an American and European clientele.

A large dive center is at the marina. There are three compressors, over 100 tanks, three dive boats and a large dive truck which is used for shore dives. The hotel conducts dive boat excursions twice daily and there are additional beach dives and night dives on request.

There are more than 35 charted dive sites around Stella Maris. Perhaps the most unique is **Shark Reef** where guests have a rare opportunity to observe the

Wall is a vertical drop-off which begins at 50 feet and is considered one of the most beautiful wall dives in the Bahamas.

Rum Cay

Eighteen miles east of Stella Maris is Rum Cay, one of the smaller and more unusual islands of the Southern Bahamas. With a population of less than 80 residents, Rum Cay is virtually unknown

to travel agents and airlines. It is a tranquil island settlement where the pace is slow and the people are exceedingly friendly.

In the last two years, this tiny island has become widely publicized and promoted because of a newly constructed diving resort known as the RUM CAY DIVING CLUB. The brainchild of Boston philanthropist David Melville, this burgeoning project has become one of the most modern scuba resorts in the Bahamas. The club facilities include a newly built clubhouse, dining rooms and new luxury suites which can accommodate over 28

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divemaster feeding a group of six or more friendly sharks in 50 feet of water. This particular dive is entirely safe and has produced many extraordinary photographs. **Barracuda Heads** is a high profile coral formation inhabited by several tame groupers and a large barracuda. **Poseidon Point** is a superb beach dive which includes a large forest of elkhorn and two separate beds of staghorn coral. **North Wall** is a deep drop-off with large purple tube sponges and lots of big fish. Extended all day boat trips to Rum Cay and Conception Island provide an additional list of exciting dives. **Conception**

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guests, a jacuzzi, an underwater photo center, three dive boats and over 200 aluminum tanks. This resort even has its own airfield with chartered Tri-Lander flights weekly from Ft. Lauderdale.

Rum Cay offers a very fine selection of high quality dive sites, including drop-offs, coral cave systems, underwater pinacles and a 120 year old shipwreck. One of the most spectacular dives is a site called **The Chimney**. It is less than one-half mile from the resort and can be reached by boat in five minutes. The top of this drop-off begins at 50 feet. There is a hole in the top of the reef approximately eight feet long and four feet wide. Upon entering it a diver can descend a vertical

tunnel or chimney to 90 feet. The bottom of the chimney opens into a large coral grotto with a white sand floor. Emerging from the coral grotto, one can follow a sandy ravine that eventually spills out onto the vertical drop-off at 130 feet. The sight is spectacular and there is a wide variety of giant sponges and gorgonian fans suitable for underwater photography.

Another excellent drop-off less than one-half mile from The Chimney is a spot called **Dynamite Wall**. Here the top of the wall begins at 80 feet and is covered with a thick bed of staghorn coral. There are dozens of tunnels and narrow canyons etched into the face of the wall. This spot is best known for the abundance of black coral trees which grow along the face at depths from 120 to 140 feet.

An entertaining medium-depth dive is a spot known as **Majestic Reef**. Dive depths range from 35 to 50 feet, with massive coral ridges and high coral heads rising up from a sandy bottom. A tame 30 pound Nassau grouper can be fed by hand and will follow divers around the reef. One of the most beautiful coral reef dives at Rum Cay is a spot called **Snow Fields**, 100 yards off the west side of the island. It is a 45 minute boat ride, but the beauty of this remarkable reef is worth the extra time. The average depth is 30 feet. There is a fairly flat bottom covered with an almost snow-white powdery sand. Rising from the bottom are hundreds of small coral heads five to

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eight feet tall. These are covered with seafans, seawhips, seaplumes and sponges. It looks like a winter scene high in the Rocky Mountains.

San Salvador Island

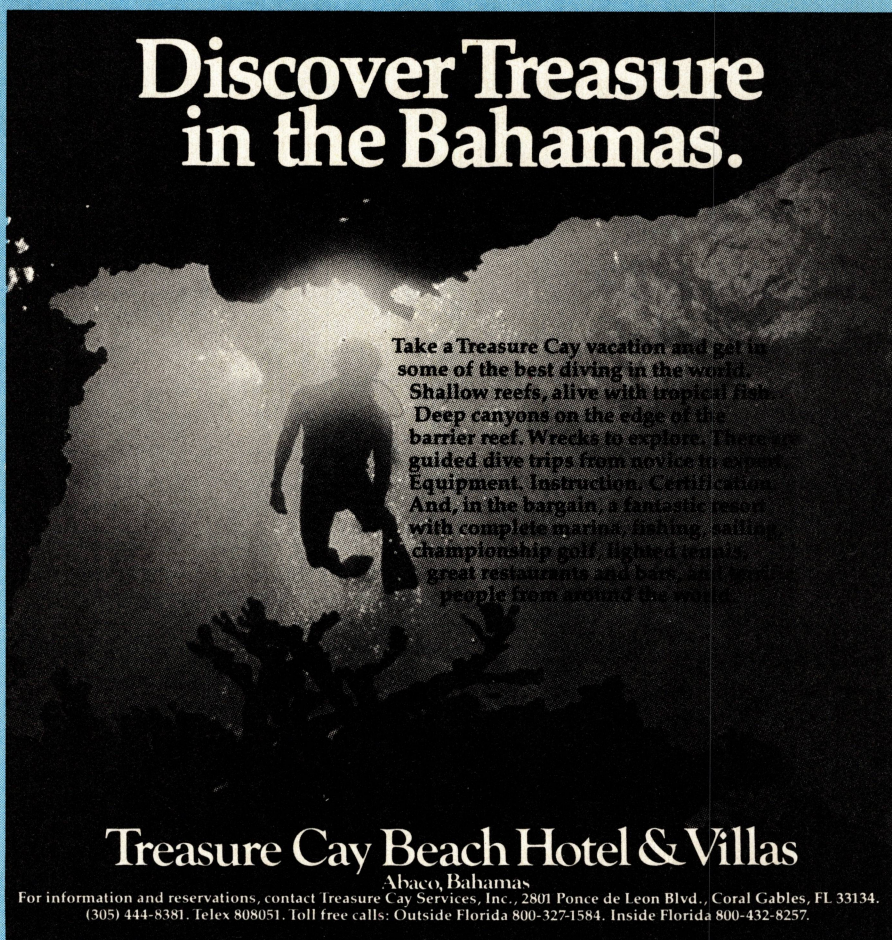
Another 30 miles east of Rum Cay lies the small island of San Salvador. It juts far out into the open Atlantic, standing apart from the natural line of the Bahamas chain. It is surrounded by open deep oceanic waters and ringed by a line of vertical drop-offs. The unusual geology of this island seems to attract a remarkable variety of unusual fish life. The island itself has a resident population of 850 Bahamians, plus a few private vacation homes. There is a paved runway, a Bahamian Customs Office and one hotel.

Although San Salvador Island may not be in every travel agent's book of tourist hot spots, this island is world famous in the dive community. It is the home of the RIDING ROCK INN one of the most successful dive resorts in the Bahamas. The management specializes in dive activities six days a week; catering to groups, families, couples and individuals. Up to 80 divers can be accommodated. It is very compact, consisting of 20 hotel rooms, six ocean front villas, several resort condos, a restaurant, swimming pool, cocktail lounge, tennis court and marina. All are within walking distance of one another and the airport is less than 500 yards away.

The dive shop is right at the marina dock and contains four air compressors, 250 tanks and assorted dive accessories. A fleet of four large Flattop dive boats is berthed directly in front of the shop. Next door is a complete underwater photo center with classroom, color film processing and camera rental department. Classes in underwater photography are conducted weekly and film is processed overnight.

There are some 35 different dive sites within 5 to 25 minutes of the Riding Rock marina. A beautiful drop-off runs parallel to the shoreline for almost eight miles and provides an unlimited selection of excellent wall dives. In addition, there are several shipwrecks, coral caves and grottoes, sea gardens and shallow reefs. **Telephone Pole** is a popular wall dive. Beginning in 45 feet of water, it features a magnificent coral canyon that cuts through the top of the reef at a 45 degree angle. **Grouper Gully** is another splendid wall inhabited by a number of extremely tame groupers that love to be fed. The **Frascati Wreck** is the remains of a

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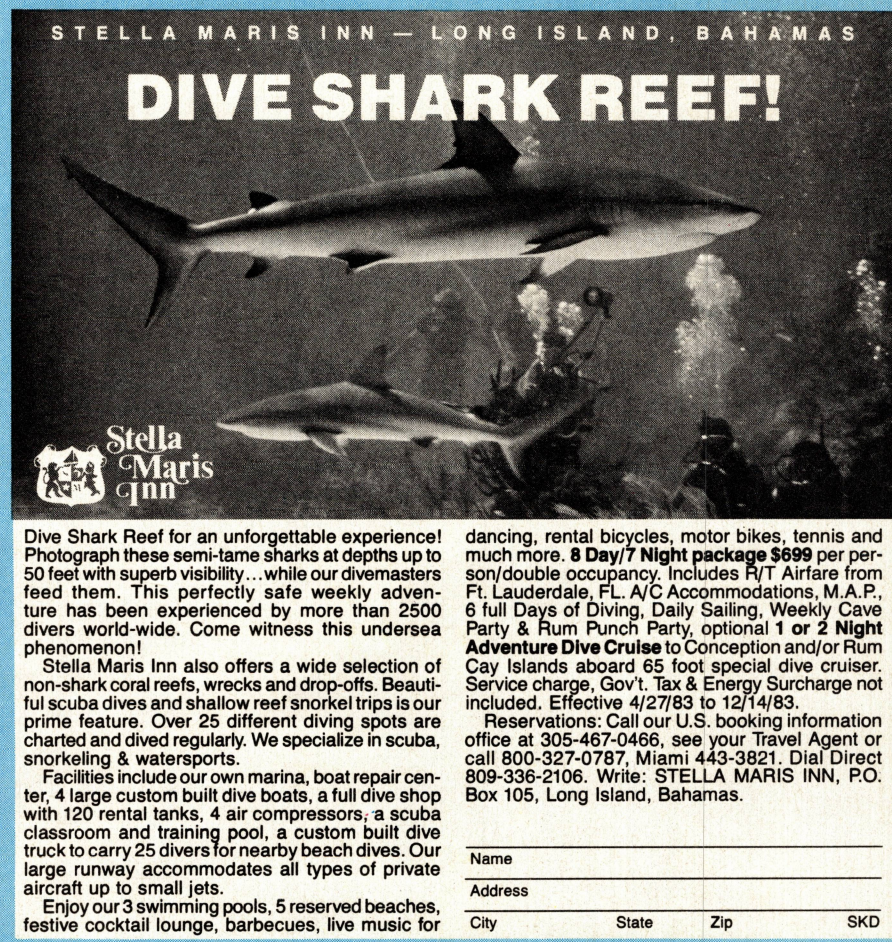
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In recent months, the divemasters have announced the discovery of several new spots which will prove particularly fascinating for divers who are returning for their second, third or fourth visits. **Sand Castles** is a stunning vertical wall where pure white sand comes right to the lip of the drop-off before cascading over the edge. Visibility is crystal clear and this drop-off is loaded with all types of coral and macro creatures. A real surprise is the discovery of **Cockburn Town Pier** as a lively spot for night dives. This spot can be dived right from the beach and visitors are likely to encounter many bizarre night creatures such as octopus, rock lobsters and stingrays. Another recent find is **Cable Crossing**, a tightly packed coral ridge and drop-off in the vicinity of the island's communication cable. This spot is loaded with all types of marine life. Also, the divemasters have recently discovered a vast underwater cave complex in the center of **Gardner's Reef**. As yet, the location has not been named.

Crooked Island

One hundred miles south of San Salvador Island lies Crooked Island, one of the most remote and untouched islands in the Bahama chain. It is over 430 miles from Ft. Lauderdale and takes over three hours to reach by private aircraft. Crooked Island has no commercial aircraft runway or luxury, for it is still an outpost on the wilderness frontier. Ironically, there is a dive resort operation on this forgotten island and the coral reefs are superb.

PITTSTOWN POINT LANDINGS is at the very northern tip of Crooked Island. It is a modest out island beach hotel facility with 12 rooms, a small dining room and combination lounge and game room. This facility is primarily an island retreat for private pilots who can get there in their own planes. Adjacent to the hotel is a short, 2300 foot grass and sand runway which can accommodate small single engine and twin engine aircraft.

Recreational facilities at Pittstown Point are very limited—no tennis courts, golf courses or shopping malls. Most guests spend their time simply relaxing on the beach or doing a little fishing. However, there is a modest scuba setup at the hotel, including an air compressor, tanks and an aluminum skiff for trips to the reef. Snorkeling at this resort is superb, as the

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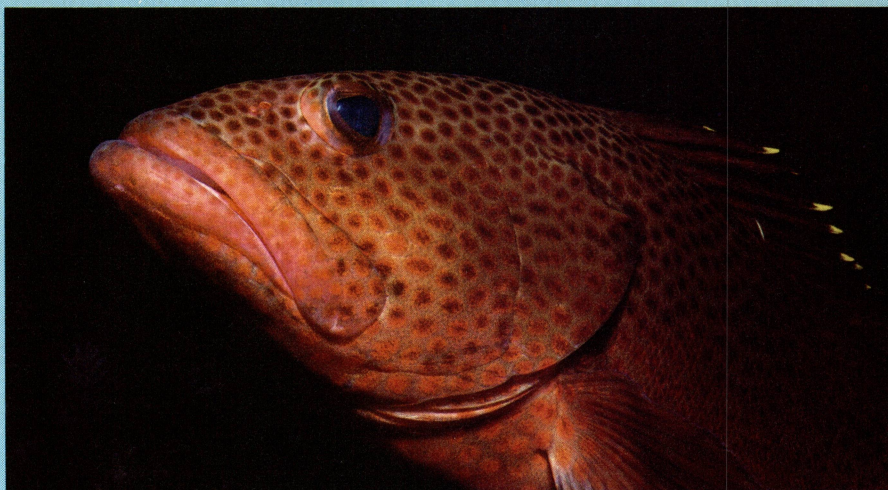
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shallow coral reef comes right up to shore only a few feet from the hotel rooms.

The scuba diving sites are generally a five to ten minute boat ride from the resort. **Grandpa Grouper** is a high coral head formation with a drop-off on the outside edge. The spot was named after a giant six foot long jewfish that is frequently seen at this site. **Runway Nine-Three** is a medium depth coral reef formation straight out from the aircraft runway. It is a great spot for seeing turtles and groupers. **The Bathtub** is a wide, shallow depth coral garden loaded with elkhorn and staghorn coral in 6 to 20 feet of water. **Thunder Alley** is a vertical drop-off with many large canyons and crevices. These narrow passageways are a favorite haunt for large groupers and grazing stingrays.



The beauty of the Bahamas is reflected in the dazzling colors of reef fish here.

Live-Aboard Dive Boats

Cruising the Bahamas on a live-aboard dive boat has become an increasingly popular way of getting the most out of a vacation. The obvious advantage of such a facility is more dives per day and thus more diving time for the vacation investment. On most live-aboard boats you can begin the day with a prebreakfast dive and continue your underwater excursions at your own pace throughout the day. While most people are satisfied with a couple of dives in the morning and a third one in the early afternoon, there are some gorilla divers who will try to squeeze in four or five dives during the day and still be eager for a night excursion after dinner. As far as the live-aboard boat crew is concerned, both types of customers are easy to accommodate.

Another advantage of the live-aboard dive boat is the fact that guests do not have to lug their scuba gear to and from their hotel room. The dive boat is their hotel room and the scuba gear is conveniently stowed close to the boarding ladder, thus making it even more inviting to make that third or fourth dive. For underwater photographers, the live-aboard vessel can be the answer to many prayers. Not only does your hotel room go to sea, but is also serves as a floating platform for an array of underwater housings, strobes and other bulky photo equipment.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of the live-aboard dive boat is its unique accessibility to remote dive spots unobtainable by land based resorts. These live-aboard vessels cruise long distances between island groups and frequently stop at uninhabited islands to explore virgin reef areas. Live-aboard guests can actually

have the best of both worlds by first diving the popular spots around well known resorts and then moving on to more remote locations for new exploration.

There are, of course, several disadvantages to a live-aboard boat. Cabin accommodations are often compact and living space is limited. There is little privacy aboard a boat filled with divers so you may as well plan on becoming close friends. Night life is rather limited but then most guests are happy to turn in early after a rigorous day of diving. Most live-

aboard boats will spend an afternoon and evening in a port such as Bimini or Freeport just to change the pace. If you can handle these types of living conditions for four to ten days, then a cruise on a live-aboard dive boat can be an extremely satisfying dive vacation experience.

At present, there are seven live-aboard dive boats operating in the Bahamas. These ships are licensed and approved by the Bahamian government and have a credible reputation. The *IMPOSSIBLE DREAM* is perhaps the best known. This



diving, of course ... the best

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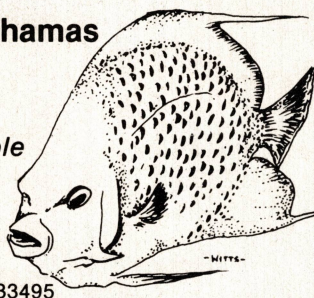
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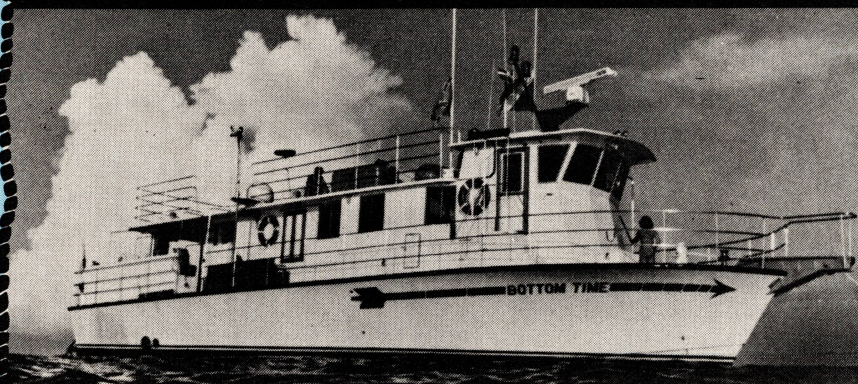
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is a 75 foot custom built dive boat which has been in operation for five years. It can carry 30 divers plus a crew of eight. This vessel runs trips of varying durations ranging from a short three and one-half day trip to a one week excursion. Depending on the length of the trip, the *IM-POSSIBLE DREAM* will select one of four different itineraries. The most popular route begins in Hollywood, Florida, crosses the Gulf Stream to Bimini and goes on to the Berry Islands, Andros and Nassau, where it turns around and returns via a slightly different route.

BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES of Miami, Florida operates two 65 foot sloops, the *SEA EXPLORER* and the *MORNINGSTAR* which can carry up to 22 divers and a crew of eight. These vessels also run long weekend trips as well as the standard one week tour. Their most popular itinerary consists of a cruise across the Gulf Stream from Miami to Bimini where they hit all of the best spots and then move on to the Berry Islands and Freeport before returning to home base. The combination of a dive boat and sailing ship is a unique and beautiful experience and much different from the normal power boat.

One of the newest dive boats to be operating in the Bahamas is the 65 foot *BOTTOM TIME*. This vessel was just completed in 1981 and features high speed cruising at 25 mph. The owners claim it is the fastest live-aboard dive boat in the Bahamas. The vessel can carry up to 20 divers and has an all diver crew. Excursions are planned into new areas of the Bahamas including Mayaguana, the Plana Cays, and Crooked Island.

The *SEA DRAGON* is a 65 foot custom dive boat based in Nassau. It offers unlimited diving, four private double cabins plus really superb food. This vessel operates cruises through the Exuma Cays where many of the reefs are still virgin. Because of its mobility the *SEA DRAGON* hits all the best wall dives and drift dives in the channels between the islands.

Other live-aboard dive boats operating in the Bahamas include the 40 foot ketch *LEO* and a 63 foot twin diesel cruiser operated by Passagemaker Charters.

Diving Passport

Six months ago the dive operators of the Bahamas joined together to establish a new association known as the Bahamas Diving Association. The purpose of this group is to help develop new ideas and programs for the future development and growth of diving in the Bahamas. Working together with the Bahamas Min-

istry of Tourism, this association has come up with a unique and exciting concept called the DIVING PASSPORT. It is a way that divers traveling to the Bahamas can earn credits toward a free dive vacation.

The association has designed and produced a passport which is similar in size to the U.S. passport, but carries the gold crest of the Bahamas Diving Association. This is being offered to the diving public for a nominal fee of \$3.00 and anyone planning to visit the Bahamas can obtain one. On the inside cover there will be space for the diver's photograph, required for the validation of this document. The photo should be sent, along with the passport application and the \$3.00 fee, so that it can be affixed with the official association seal. An alternative to this procedure is for the traveling diver to have his photo affixed and sealed while in the Bahamas. The passports will also have a serial number for control purposes.

Approximately 20 dive operators will be involved in this program. The visitor need only present his diving passport at the end of his dive activities to have it validated and an entry made showing the date, dive resort location and number of days diving. The resort will also note this same information in its log book. A day of diving is defined as a day in which any paid scuba or snorkeling activity is done under the auspices of an operation which is a participating member of the Bahamas Diving Association. Each day of diving recorded and verified in the passport earns credits toward a free diving vacation.

There are actually four different levels of awards in the program and visitors have a total of three years in which to enter their documented Bahama dives. After ten days of diving with two different operations, the passport bearer is entitled to one free day of diving. After 20 days of diving with three different operations, the passport bearer is entitled to two free days of diving, one free night of hotel accommodations, and a 50 percent discount on any Bahamasair round-trip ticket within the Bahamas. After 40 days of diving with five different dive operations, the passport holder is entitled to 14 days of free diving, 14 nights of free hotel accommodations, plus unlimited travel on Bahamasair within that 14 day period. After 60 days of diving with seven different dive operations, the passport holder and his or her companion are both entitled to the grand award of 14 days of free diving, 14 nights of hotel accommodations, two meals daily and unlimited travel on Bahamasair within the Bahamas for the 14 day period.

For more information about the diving passport program write to: Miss Maura Brassil, Bahamas Tourist Office, 255 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, FL 33134, or telephone: (305) 444-8428.

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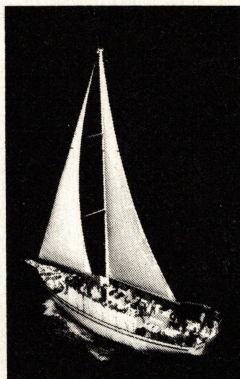
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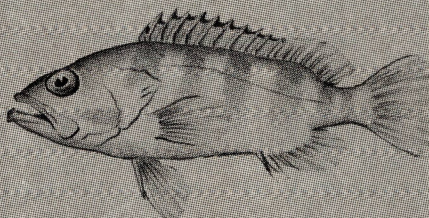
SKIN DIVER APRIL 1983 101



The Banded Grouper

(*Epinephelus fasciatus*)

Fishes of the family Serranidae (groupers and sea basses) can exhibit interesting color changes, which larger species such as those of the genus *Epinephelus* do often and instantly. The banded grouper can be bright red overall, with six or seven darkish vertical bands (*fasciatus* means banded in Latin), but in an instant the fish can appear completely white, with one dark red region on the top of the head extending from the nose to the first dorsal ray. In this color phase, there are no bands at all. □ The most reliable characteristic of the banded grouper, therefore, is the series of black-tipped dorsal spines, which appear on all individuals of the species with or without bands. Because of this particular characteristic, the fish is called black-tip grouper throughout the Indo Pacific region where it inhabits tropical waters as far north as Korea and the Red Sea; it is also called black-tipped rock-cod in Australia, where it ranges from the Great Barrier Reef and other offshore reef areas. Another permanent characteristic of the species is the dark ring around the eyes (the fish is sometimes commonly called blue-ring grouper). The banded grouper grows to more than one foot in length and a weight of almost five pounds, although it is more commonly seen in the one or two pound range. In Australian waters it is caught by offshore shrimp trawlers and by anglers fishing the coastal reefs to depths of about 120 feet. It is said to be one of the best eating rock-cods of Australia, although it is often used



banded phase

for bait because of its relatively small size. □ The family Serranidae includes a wide variety of species, with individuals ranging from a few inches to 12 feet in length, and from a few ounces to 1000 pounds. The big groupers such as those of *Epinephelus* are included in the same family as the five or six inch sea basses, and therefore Serranidae is considered among the least specialized families of fishes. There are 350 to 400 species within the family in tropical and temperate waters around the world, making it one of the largest of fish families as well. Serranids have a number of features in common, but the serrate preopercle (front bone of the gill cover) may be the most distinctive. *Serranus* comes from the Latin meaning saw and refers to this characteristic. □ The banded grouper, like most serranids, is a bottom dweller, sitting in caves or near protective ledges when it doesn't swim and lazing along slowly over the bottom when it does. All serranids are carnivorous, feeding primarily on fishes and various crustaceans such as shrimps and crabs. □ Serranids exhibit interesting and bizarre sexual characteristics; some of the larger ones (such as those of *Epinephelus*) start out as females and change to males in later life, whereas some of the smaller serranids are hermaphroditic, being male and female at the same time. The extreme color variations of the banded grouper are not related to sex, but the bands of the banded phase may become less distinct with age. ❧

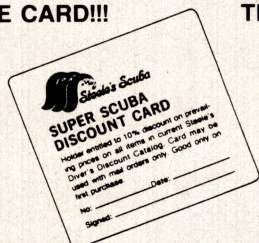
Photo By Chris Newbert-Text By Hillary Hauser

Newbert took the photograph in 30 feet of water in the Red Sea. He used a Canon F-1 with 50 mm macro lens in an Oceanic USA Hydro 35 housing, Oceanic 2003 strobe. Kodachrome 25 at f16, 18 inches from subject.

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LENSES

(Continued from Page 74)

With housed 35 mm SLR cameras, flat ports are often preferred for close-up photography because the camera-to-subject distance will be slightly greater for any given picture area. Thus, with 50 and 55 mm close-focusing lenses, you are less likely to frighten skitterish subjects or bump the housing port into rock or coral. But with lenses having focal lengths of about 28 mm or less, the light must pass through the port at acute angles to reach the corners of the film. This causes distortions and color aberrations in the corners of the picture. This is why the apparently flat port of the Nikonos 28 mm is actually concave on both sides. It is corrected for U/W use.

DOMES PORTS

A dome port reduces the distortion and color aberrations in the corners of the picture. Underwater, it bends light rays so they appear to come from an image (called the virtual image) less than a foot from the front of the port. Because the camera lens must be focused on this virtual image, although your subject may really be several feet away, a supplementary close-up lens or close-focusing lens is necessary and the focusing scale of the lens will be compressed. For example, when used behind an Ikelite dome port, merely changing the focused distance of a Canon 50 mm close-focusing lens from 9 9/16 inches to 13 1/2 inches shifts the focused distance from one to eight apparent feet.

Before buying a dome port for a housing, check with the manufacturer if you intend to use a lens wider than 24 mm with a 35 mm camera. You sometimes need a special dome port for corner sharpness with 20 mm and wider lenses.

CHOOSING A LENS

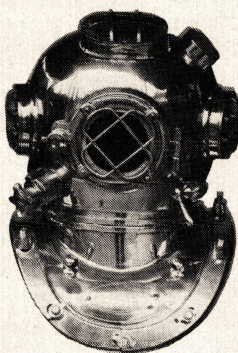
Most published U/W pictures are either wide-angle shots showing one or more divers, or colorful close-ups of small creatures. Therefore, if you are using a normal lens with your housed or amphibious camera, or a Nikonos 35 mm lens, you may wonder why your pictures don't look like those you see in print. The reason may be the lens used! Most expert U/W photographers work almost exclusively with quality wide-angle and/or close-up lenses.

If you have a housed 35 mm SLR, a 24 mm wide-angle lens and a close-focusing 50 or 55 mm lens would give you a good start. You can add a telephoto lens later if you need it. If you are using the normal lens that came with the camera, buy a supplementary close-up lens.

If you have a Nikonos and 35 mm lens, extension tubes and close-up lenses will

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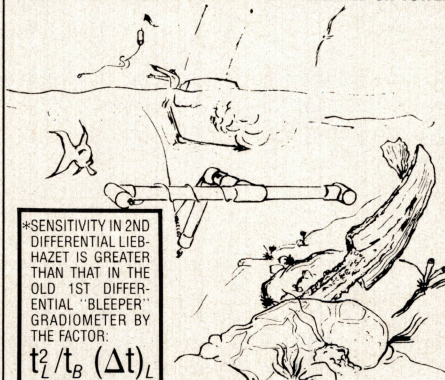
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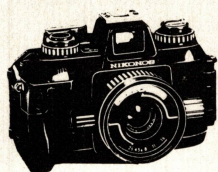
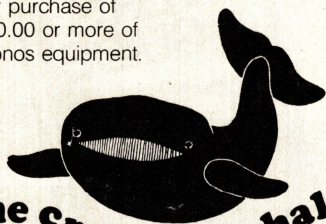


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open up an entirely new dimension to your U/W photography. After you master close-ups, save up for a wide-angle lens. But once you master a wide-angle lens, you may rarely use anything else again!

We will discuss wide-angle adapters, close-up systems, extension tubes and the key question—Nikonos or housed SLR—in next month's issue. 

DIVE MEDICINE IN DEPTH

Dr. Sylvia Earle and Stan Waterman will be guest lecturers at two upcoming Diving Medicine in Depth programs conducted by Human Underwater Biology.

Dr. Earle, the first woman to use the JIM submersible system at depths of



1000+ feet, will join the academic staff April 23-30 at Anthony's Key Resort in the Bay Islands of Honduras. This program will lay the foundation for the fundamental principles of dive physics, physiology and decompression, and for the recognition and basic underlying mechanisms of various dive disorders.

While the academic program is open only to registered physicians, Dr. Earle's general interest presentations on marine biology and scientific diving will be open to registrants' accompanying spouses and family members.

Stan Waterman, known for his underwater films, will participate in the selected topics course scheduled at Anthony's Key, June 18-25. This program will emphasize the clinical correlates in dive medicine, with the academic portion closed to non-course attendees.

Waterman's films, which will include *The Last of the Right Whales*, *A 60th at F-8*, and other documentaries about the Sea of Cortez and Australia, will be open to accompanying family members.

Both programs are approved for Category I CME and are among the most highly accredited programs offered in the field of diving medicine. Space in both programs is limited. For complete program information, write or call collect: Human Underwater Biology, Inc., Dept. AKR, P.O. Box 5893, San Antonio, TX 78201; (512) 492-9395. 

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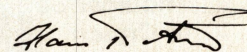
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Men's or women's custom tailored to your measurements with high pants and collar for super warmth. Finest wet suit material, completely nylon lined. Features sewn seams, noncorrosive zipper and twist locks. 1/4" or 3/16" material — mark choice below. Just fill in your measurements and mail your order. Quick delivery with Visa, Mastercard, and M.O. Checks take 3 weeks to clear.

1/4" 3/16"

Sex Age

Height

Weight

☐ Ankle
☐ Calf
☐ Knee
☐ Thigh
☐ Hips
☐ Waist
☐ Chest
☐ Neck
☐ Wrist
☐ Forearm
☐ Elbow
☐ Biceps
☐ Ankle to Knee
☐ Ankle to Crotch
☐ Ankle to Waist
☐ Shoulder Seam to Crotch
☐ Wrist to Elbow
☐ Bra and Cup Size
☐ Wrist to Armpit
☐ Hat Size

- ☐ GLOVES \$10.95
☐ BOOTS \$12.95
☐ HOOD \$11.95

MEN OVER 225 lbs. ADD \$35.00

WOMEN OVER 175 lbs. or 5'8" ADD \$35.00

\$6.00 for postage, \$8.50 Canada, \$15 APO, FPO. No COD.
WA State add sales tax. Clip and mail this coupon today.

To: Skin Diver Wet Suits
1632 S. 250th
Kent, Washington 98032-5499

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

JIM AND CATHY CHURCH: FIRST RATE PHOTO INSTRUCTORS

BY SALLY R. ADOLPH

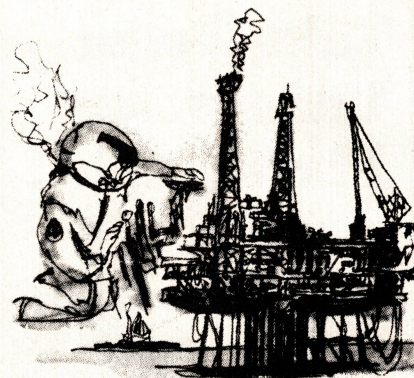


As the readers of SKIN DIVER know, Jim and Cathy Church write well, express themselves clearly and are very knowledgeable in the area of underwater photography, audio/visual equipment and other related subjects. However, unless you have taken their course, you probably don't realize how their skills extend into the areas of teaching and relating, marine life, mechanics, repair and fine organization.

Unlike most married couples, Jim and Cathy work together all day, every day and complement each other. Their personalities mesh as well as their expertise in different areas. Cathy was a biology teacher, thus an expert on critters. Jim is a mechanical trouble shooter highly adept at keeping photo equipment working. Cathy specializes in close-up photography while Jim is a devotee of the wide-angle lens. Jim teaches about strobe numbers and math and Cathy helps develop different lighting angles and techniques. Cathy does most of the lecturing, with humor, enthusiasm and a fine knowledge of her subjects. While Jim does less lecturing, his skills are also most evident. Jim and Cathy both demonstrate and teach composition while Cathy models. Both have an uncanny ability to anticipate students' problems—in diving, photography and equipment.

Perhaps the nicest thing about their course is the individual attention that each student receives. This is because both are highly energetic and dedicated teachers, and because there are two of them running each course, at all times, plus a full-time assistant, Kathie Mullins, who has been with them for years.

One fact speaks more enthusiastically of the course's quality than anything else: More than 60 percent of the Church's students come back to take future, more advanced courses with them. That is high praise, indeed!



MAR-VEL is underwater EVERYWHERE

The Mar-Vel Diving Specialties catalog offers the most complete source of diving equipment unequaled elsewhere, featuring a complete listing of diving gear designed for the commercial operator, skin and scuba diver, marine scientist, photographer, military and salvage diver.

Catalog \$2 Refundable with first order.

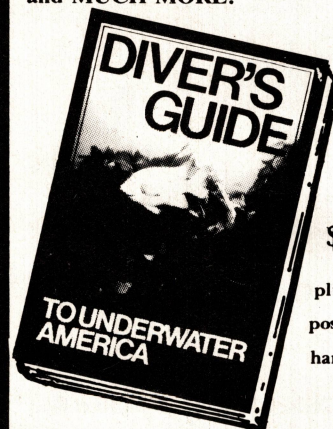
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Your Name

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City

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ZIP

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DEMA: 1983

Las Vegas! Casinos, bright lights, exciting nightly entertainment and host city of the Seventh Annual Diving Equipment Manufacturers (DEMA) Trade Show. The 1983 show took place January 20-23 and was the largest dive equipment show to date: 170 exhibitors displayed equipment and introduced their services to over 950



professional dive stores. More than 2600 attendees walked approximately 250,000 square feet of exhibit and function space.

Realizing a need to promote our sport directly to the non-diving public, DEMA premiered its new promotional diving film at the Annual Film Festival. *I'd Rather Be Diving* was photographed and directed by Jack McKenney. DEMA is funding nationwide exposure for the film and it will also be available to dive store operators, instructors and resort owners.

The Thursday evening film festival also featured *There's An Eel in My BC* by Emmy award winning cinematographer Stan Waterman, while Jack McKenney further thrilled the audience with a second film, *The Devilfish of El Bajo*.

The first DEMA Trade Show was held in 1977—a mere six years ago. At the first show only 60 exhibitors displayed their equipment and services to barely 300 dive store operators.

For information on the 1984 New Orleans DEMA Trade Show, January 14-17, contact Bob Gray at DEMA, P.O. Box 217, Tustin, California 92681. 🐸

GLASSES FOUND

A pair of prescription glasses were recently found at a depth of 35 feet, not far from Plantation Village on Grand Cayman Island. If the owner can identify the name/brand on the frames, the finder will send them to him/her. Please contact Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117. 🐸

AQUA-NUT TREASURE HUNT

The annual Aqua-Nut Divers Treasure Hunt and Membership Drive will be held at Horseshoe Lakes Campground in St. Bernice, Indiana, Sunday, June 19.

Last year's event saw a large turn-out of divers, from five states, compete for over \$5,000 in prizes.

For information contact Aqua-Nut Divers, R.R. #1, Box 360, Clinton, IN 47842. 🐸

Phone Central Last!

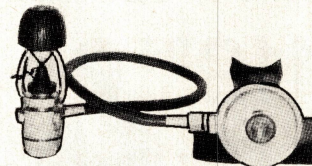
CENTRAL SKINDIVERS is a full time, full line pro shop with an olympic size indoor pool. CENTRAL has been in business 31 years and our sales and service departments are familiar with every Scuba diving item made. If this months specials do not include what you're looking for, call for CENTRAL's discount price on any diving item.

When you've decided what you want to buy, whip out your VISA or MASTERCARD and call CENTRAL at 1-516-826-8888, we'll be happy to take your order for same day shipment. CENTRAL pays shipping in continental USA on most orders.

CENTRAL has advertised and non-advertised specials every month. Send \$1.00 for our complete Discount Catalog and Divers Flag Decal.



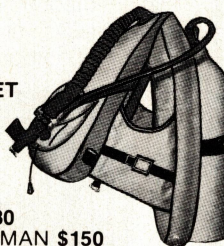
U.S. DIVERS 80 K
Lifetime Warrantee
80 Cu. Ft. Aluminum
100% Rust Free
TANK & VALVE \$120
NO ROLL TANK BOOT \$5
USDIVERS SHERPA PAC \$30
Plus Shipping



REGULATORS
U.S. DIVERS CONSELF XIV \$120
TEKNA 2100B \$140
DACOR PACER 900 \$125
SHERWOOD MAGNUM \$110
OCTOPUS \$50
Central pays shipping

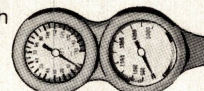
STABILIZING JACKET

Famous make
Low Pressure Inflator
Velcro Kam Pac
Adjustable Sides
Twin Pockets - CO2
JACKET (S,M&L) \$130
1983 PARKWAY CAYMAN \$150
1983 DACOR SEACHUTE \$180
US DIVERS BC700 \$120
Central pays shipping

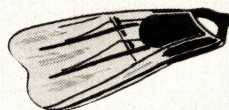


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150' or 250' Depth
Super Luminous
Shock Resistant
Oil Filled
Twin Rubber Boot



COMBO GAUGE \$70
PRESSURE GAUGE ONLY \$45
DEPTH GAUGE ONLY \$29
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THERMO PLASTIC FIN
Jet Type Blade
Vented Clear Plastic
Adjustable Straps
FIN (M or L) \$35
US DIVERS SILICONE
ATLANTIS II MASK \$29
SILICONE SNORKEL \$14
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FAMOUS SUITS

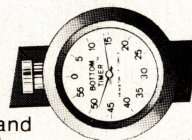
1/4" Nylon II
Stitched and Glued
Contour Fit
Mens or ladies
JACKET & PANTS \$130
JACKET & FARMER JOHN \$150
PARKWAY'S FAMOUS
JET II DRY SUIT \$330
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CENTRAL CATALOG
Discount Prices
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Divers Flag Decal
CENTRAL CATALOG \$1.00

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Luminous
Sweep Second Hand
Altitude Adjustable
Pressure Activated
BOTTOM TIMER \$45
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Central is a PADI Facility
Lessons For Beginner Through Instructor.

Use and operation of life support equipment should not be undertaken without qualified and proper instructions in their use. This ad does not imply the sale of life support equipment through the mail.

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Phone: (516) 826-8888

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Address _____
City _____ Apt. _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____

Please rush attached order! Sorry NO C.O.D.

\$ _____ enclosed (N.Y. add tax) or bill
my charge card (Minimum Charge \$75.00)

_____ Exp. Date _____

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Signature _____

FAMOUS MAKER HIGH QUALITY WET SUITS

Order DIRECT
from manufacturer
and SAVE \$

Nylon II 1/4" Farmer John

\$119⁹⁵

★★ FEATURES ★★

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FARMER JOHN DELUXE
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Features:

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Nylon I 1/2" Vest With Hood.....27.95

Nylon II 1/4" Mitts.....17.00

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Dealer Inquiries Invited



THE DIVING CENTER

Jeanne and Ed Tiedemann's The Diving Center has opened in Levittown, New York. It is headquarters for the Long Island Groupers, a local dive club. The Groupers are trying to establish an underwater park along the south shore of Long Island. The club has long been interested in preserving the ecology of Northeast reefs.

The Diving Center is a full service professional dive facility with an emphasis on photography and foreign travel. For information on The Diving Center or on the Long Island Groupers please contact: Jeanne Tiedemann, The Diving Center, 26 Wolcott, Road, Levittown, New York 11756; (516) 796-6560. 🐠

GRAY/FRINK PHOTOGRAPHIC

Cindy Gray has been promoted to manager of retail operations for Stephen Frink Photographic of Key Largo, FL. Her duties will include sales and rentals of underwater photographic gear, overnight E-



6 processing, stock photo research, and booking and coordination for underwater photo seminars.

For information contact Stephen Frink Photo, P.O. Box 19A, Key Largo, FL 33037. 🐠

DIVER TOO

The M/V Key West Diver Too is now fully operational, with weekly advanced dive charters to the Sambos and Ten Fathom Ledge. The vessel is also open for charter expeditions to the WW II gulf wrecks, reefs of the Marquesas Islands, and the USS Wilkes-Barre.

For information contact Captain Billy at Scuba Key West, c/o Reef Raiders Dive Shop, Mile Marker 4.5, U.S. # 1, Stock Isle, Key West, Florida 33040. 🐠

INTER MTN. MAIL ORDER Zodiac, The Ultimate Piece of Diving Equipment:



1081 USD Conshelf XIV Reg.	118.00
1088 USD Conshelf Supr. Reg.	130.00
1099 USD Octopus	58.50
7420 USD Triple Mod. Console	107.50
2100B Tekna Reg.	140.50
2101B Tekna Octopus	81.50
2710 Tekna Combo - max Depth Gauge	93.50
2810 Tekna Combo w/Knife	130.50
Tekna T1100 Silicone Mask	49.95
Tabata TM-2900Q Mask	29.50
Tabata FR-1500Q Snorkel	13.95
Tabata TR-30 Reg.	139.95
Tabata TDS-703 Dive System	395.00
Tabata SCA-40 Deluxe Console	129.00
Sherwood SRB-3200 Mag Reg.	103.50
Sherwood SRB-3200 Mag Bliz Reg.	119.50
Sherwood SRB-Octopus	39.95
Sherwood GC-250 Console	84.95
Princeton Tectonics Console PTC-200	129.50
Princeton Tectonics PTC-300	172.50
Princeton Bottom Timer High Alt	49.50
Princeton Tectonics DG10	59.50
Princeton Tectonics Pressure gauge PG1	59.50
Vanguard Decompression Depth Meter	159.95
IDI REG #1771	179.95
Barakuda Milertar Reg. (Reg. \$360.00)	NOW 270.00
Oceanic Talon Knife	39.95
New Oceanic Mirage Mask	34.50
Oceanic Fara FinX-Spring	46.50

PHOTO EQUIPMENT

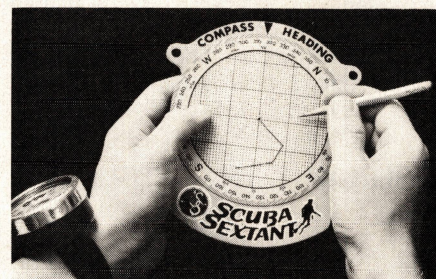
New Oceanic Omega Reg.	189.50
Oceanic 2001 Strobe	329.50
Oceanic 2001 Pkg - Strobe, Grip, 15" arm, L-meter, Ext tubes, & Finder	649.50
Oceanic Hydro-35 housing-Nikon F-2 F-3	649.50
Oceanic Diver Propulsion Vehicle MK III	1,299.50
Oceanic SUBA WIDER 21mm Lens	269.95
Ikelite Light, Camera & Strobe 25% off	
Marin Solar-Strobes & Lights 30% off	
Mercury Outboard Eng. 3.5-300 HP 15% disc.	
Chrysler Outboard Eng. 3.5-140 HP 17% disc.	
Zodiac Boats - 15% disc. w/MTR pkg 20% disc.	
Magnum Sailboard 20% disc.	1,495.00 - 695.00
Sailboard special - O'Brian Free sail - Reg. 995.00	NOW 495.00
Vinta Sailboard Reg. 895.00	NOW 695.00
Alpha Sailboard 25% disc. in stock	
Fujinon Marine Binocular Sale 15% disc.	
Gold dredges - Gold King - All models 15% Sale	
BAUER Compressor All models 10% disc.	

MONTHLY SPECIAL

Sherwood Selpac Diving System
SRB 200 Regulator, Soft Pac, Stab Jacket, 80 Alum. Tank K Valve 365.00
\$5 dollars handling charge all orders, Insurance additional require \$30 dollars handling charge boats, motors, boards. VISA, MASTER CARD OR AMEX Call Collect (303) 987-1465 or (303) 740-7623. We ship anywhere, freight collect. Vender catalogs \$1 each.
C-card # requested on life sustaining equipment. Underwater life support systems are potentially dangerous to an untrained user. These items include tanks, regulators, and buoyancy compensators. This ad does not necessarily constitute sale of those items through Mail Order.

DIVERSIFIED MARINE AIR PRODUCTS

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RELIABLE UNDERWATER NAVIGATION SCUBA SEXTANT, INC.

For more information or to order mail to: Scuba Sextant, Inc. 3016 30th St., Columbus, NB 68601
Send _____ Scuba Sextants at \$16.50 each to

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

circle #177 on Reader Service Card

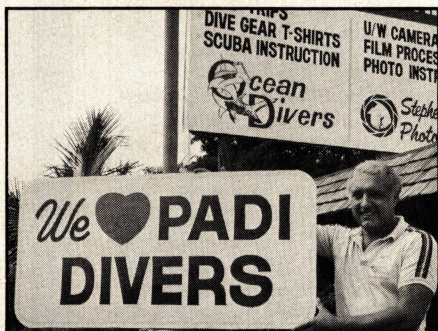
WOHLERS JOINS DEMA

Bob Wohlers, former dive resort manager, high school educator, projects director at PADI Headquarters and co-author of the *PADI Advanced Dive Manual*, has joined the Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association staff.

His basic function will be to serve as a liaison between equipment manufacturers and retailers. Bob has also been assigned to help coordinate DEMA's efforts to increase the recreational dive market, according to Bob Gray, executive director of DEMA.

5 STAR OCEAN DIVERS

Ocean Divers of Key Largo, FL has upgraded its diver certification facilities in compliance with PADI five star criteria.



For information contact Ocean Divers, P.O. Box 1113, Mile Marker 99.5, Key Largo, Florida 33037.

BERRY PACKAGES

Berry Scuba Company is offering special rates to vacationers at Berry Scuba Resort, 267 N.W. 3rd Street, Crystal River, Florida 32629. All of these special package prices include accommodations, boat, and air fills.

Contact Berry Scuba Resort for information or reservations at (904) 795-9330.

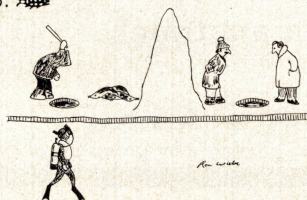
CAL AQUATICS

In the article, I'd Rather Be Diving, (SDM, February 1983) Cal Aquatics was incorrectly said to be operating in Thousand Oaks. For nearly 11 years, the dive shop has been at 22725 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364; telephone (213) 346-4799.

RUSSEL TO PADI ITC

The International PADI Instructor Training Center has appointed Emma Russel to the position of manager, foreign travel-training. She will be in charge of all travel-training to Scandinavia and Cozumel.

For more information contact: International PADI Instructor Training Center, 5036 W. 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60638.



ANNIVERSARY SALE

OUR 14th YEAR OF SERVING THE DIVING INDUSTRY

We try to price our merchandise below the competition, but occasionally we goof. If you find a current advertised price in *SKIN DIVER* lower than ours, give us a call and we'll match their price* plus give you a **FREE** gift for purchasing from us.

CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-241-1856

IN GEORGIA CALL (404) 952-1629

REGULATORS

U.S. DIVERS CALYPSO VI	119 ⁹⁵
U.S. DIVERS CONSHOLF XIV	124 ⁹⁵
CONSHOLF SUPREME	134 ⁹⁵
U.S. DIVERS OCTOPUS	59 ⁹⁵
DACOR PACER 300	109 ⁹⁵
DACOR PACER 900	129 ⁹⁵
POSEIDON CYKLON 300	144 ⁹⁵
CYKLON MAXIMUM	144 ⁹⁵
TEKNA 2100B	154 ⁹⁵
SHERWOOD MAGNUM	114 ⁹⁵
OCEANIC OMEGA	129 ⁹⁵

Add \$3.00 shipping for each Regulator ordered

STABILIZING JACKETS

U.S. DIVERS SEA OTTER	139 ⁹⁵
PARKWAY CAYMEN	139 ⁹⁵
PARKWAY OCEAN JACKET	189 ⁹⁵
DACOR SEACHUTE	179 ⁹⁵
DACOR BCX JACKET	219 ⁹⁵
DACOR BCT JACKET	169 ⁹⁵

ALL JACKETS COMPLETE WITH POWER INFLATOR AND KAM PACK

Add \$4.00 shipping for each Jacket ordered

WET SUITS

PARKWAY 1/4" ENCOUNTER	149 ⁹⁵
Farmer John and Jacket	
PARKWAY UNISUIT	549 ⁹⁵
PARKWAY 1/4" OMNI	149 ⁹⁵
Farmer John and Jacket	

Add \$4.00 shipping for each suit ordered

*RESTRICTIONS: Price Comparison Adjustments must be requested when order is placed and are limited to in-stock merchandise.

Prices apply only to orders placed by mail or telephone and may vary from those in our store.

Use and operation of life support equipment should not be undertaken without qualified and proper instructions in their use. This ad does not imply the sale of life support equipment through the mail.

INSTRUMENTS

TEKNA T-2700 COMBO	99 ⁹⁵
CPG & Oil Filled Depth Gauge	
DACOR ICL-150	79 ⁹⁵
Combo CPG & Oil Filled Depth Gauge	
DACOR IC3-150	89 ⁹⁵
CPG, Oil Filled Depth & Compass	
U.S. DIVERS DIVEMASTER I	79 ⁹⁵
CPG & Oil Filled Depth Gauge	
U.S. DIVERS DIVEMASTER III	119 ⁹⁵
CPG, Oil Filled Depth & Compass	
PARKWAY PRESSURE GAUGE	39 ⁹⁵
DACOR WRIST DEPTH GAUGE	29 ⁹⁵
BOTTOM TIMER BT400	49 ⁹⁵

Add \$2.00 shipping for each instrument ordered

ALUMINUM TANKS

U.S. DIVERS 80' K VALUE	119 ⁹⁵
U.S. DIVERS 80' J VALUE	139 ⁹⁵
DACOR 160 cu. ft. TWINS	299 ⁹⁵

Shipping charges will be in addition to above prices

POWER FINS

U.S. DIVERS ROCKET FIN	21 ⁹⁵
Open heel vented fin	
DACOR TURBO FLEX	39 ⁹⁵
Open heel power fin	
U.S. DIVERS PASSPORT	19 ⁹⁵
Full foot pocket - Thermo plastic	

Add \$3.00 shipping for each fin ordered

UNDERWATER LIGHTS

OCEANIC 101	69 ⁹⁵
Rechargeable with charger	
DACOR UL900	69 ⁹⁵
100,000 candle power with charger	

Add \$3.00 shipping for each light ordered

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MERCHANDISERS**

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ALL MERCHANDISE SHIPPED WITHIN 48 HOURS!

Finally! OceanQuest for ALL Your Dive Travel.

Bahamas

Romora Bay Club

Fashioned from a Bahamian estate this resort is perched on a hillside with a beautiful view of Harbour Island's magnificent bay. This idyllic island, a short distance from N. Eleuthera, offers watersports activities, including sailing, fishing and skiing. Surrounded by more than 30 different dive sites, it is considered to be extensive and diverse.

Cayman

Holiday Inn

Holiday Inn, Bob Soto's Diving and OceanQuest proudly announce the world's first **guaranteed** diving vacation:
1 Your dive boat will operate every day. 2 Your room reservations are confirmed every day. 3 Or your one week diving vacation is **free - Guaranteed**. Call for special price, including roundtrip airfare from Miami.

Cayman Brac

Brac Reef Hotel

Now, direct flights from Miami make the Brac's wall diving even more accessible. The Brac Reef is the island's most modern hotel, featuring 30 ocean-front rooms, pool, tennis, sailing and fine restaurant. Winston Mc Dermott's Brac Aquatics offers unlimited diving, plus a trip to Little Cayman.

Roatan

Anthony's Key Resort

Roatan, one of the Bay Islands of Honduras, is a tropical paradise reminiscent of an earlier Caribbean era. Anthony's Key, looking more like an island plantation than a resort, provides cottages with comfort, privacy and delightful view. Virgin blue water from the Gulf-stream trench, two miles deep, is propelled over the 30-mile barrier reef, and proves the ideal location for Peter Hughes' DIVE ROATAN.

Bahamas

South Ocean Beach

Located only a few miles outside the hustle and bustle of Nassau on the south shore, this top-rated resort faces Bahamas 4000 meter deep Tongue of the Ocean, with a wall that starts at less than 45 feet. The hotel amenities are superb, including dining, tennis, wind surfing, sailing and championship golf course.

Cayman

London House

What better way to spend a Grand Cayman dive vacation than in a handsomely designed resort apartment with every convenience - two bedrooms/baths, kitchen & living room, facing the ocean - ideal for diving couples and families. Located on Seven Mile Beach, this package features superb Cayman diving with Bob Soto. Roundtrip airfare included in the low season rate.

Cozumel

La Ceiba Beach Hotel

Cozumel's favorite dive hotel and resort, combined with Fantasia Divers, make this the best diving package on the island. Paradise Reef, just offshore, and Palancar Reef, only twenty minutes away offer breathtaking beauty. Beach-front accommodations, pool, unlimited beach diving and choice of restaurant.

Turks & Caicos

Hotel Kittina

The most spectacular dives in Grand Turk involve the 7000-foot drop-off paralleling the leeward shore. Located on this truly unexploited island, the Kittina offers 22 spacious rooms on the beach and features Mike Spillar's Turks Island Divers with a 32' flattop and full service dive facility.

Bonaire

Habitat Resort

This popular resort captures the mood of Bonaire. Your own private cottage is just steps away from Captain Don's new dive center in front of one of Bonaire's most popular reefs. Complete certification course and U/W photography facility. Good food, good friends and unlimited diving.

Cayman

Royal Palms & Coral Caymanian

The **Pick** of Cayman! **Skin Diver** says "these hotels are right on the beach and are perfectly suited for sunbathing, swimming, sailing, snorkeling and of course, scuba." Located in the heart of seven mile beach, Don Foster's **DIVE GRAND CAYMAN** offers personalized service. Roundtrip airfare from Miami included in this special package.

Florida Keys

Port Largo Villas

Key Largo's Pennekamp Park... more than 40 species of coral, 650 varieties of tropical fish, and your own luxury two bedroom villa... complete diving package with Joe Clark's Ocean Divers. Resort and certification courses, plus underwater photography with Stephen Frink.

Turks & Caicos

Meridian Club

Your dive vacation is keyed to formal relaxation on the private island of Pine Cay, with beach front suites, freshwater pool, excellent cuisine and impeccable service. The dive operation is personalized and just minutes from shore you'll discover exhilarating drop-offs, blue holes, virgin reefs, caves and canyons.

Bonaire

Flamingo Beach Hotel

This 110-room resort hotel, a few minutes from the airport, a short stroll to town is the home of Peter Hughes' DIVE BONAIRE. More than 40 dive sites, plus Bonaire's incredible beach diving. Underwater photo course and developing. Afterwards, relax in the freshwater pool or jacuzzi.

Cayman

Spanish Cove Resort

A Caribbean diver's paradise that's in a class by itself is the only way to describe this fabulous resort. Just minutes from George Town and Seven Mile Beach, you are treated to world-class diving on the North Wall. State-of-the-art dive center, photography and instruction make this the best that Cayman has to offer.

Jamaica

Jamaica Hilton

Sea & Dive Jamaica with Mike Drakulich. This special low season package gives you the **best** Jamaican diving on the island's North Coast at the Jamaica Hilton in Ocho Rios. Afterwards, enjoy Waterfalls, and Rivers, Lush Gardens, Dining, Discos, and Dancing, Pool and Entertainment. Jamaica is a **must** for every diver and non-diver this year.

Virgin Islands

M/V Tropic Bird

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SDM travel

SECTION

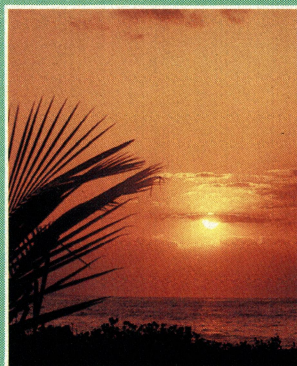
The Air Florida 737 gracefully banked to the left, offering our first glimpse of the tiny, crescent-shaped out island country, the Turks and Caicos. There, lazily floating on the shimmering sea, midway between Miami and Puerto Rico, lay the capitol island of Grand Turk, one of two gateways to this newly emerging millionaire's retreat of under 8000 permanent souls. Stretched like a huge silver ribbon from the sandy beaches of the Caribbean on the west to the craggy shores of the open Atlantic on the east, the runway seemed to sparkle as if freshly rolled out for this landing.

Less than 80 miles to the west, tucked neatly in the heart of the Caicos group, was our final destination—the remote 800 acre private island of Pine Cay. It can be reached only by private aircraft or from the sea by boat. The majority of traveling divers are shuttled between the cay and Grand Turk or the second port city of Providenciales (locally called Provo) by air taxi. During the 40 minute flight from Grand Turk my hosts, Frank Shane and Amy Brown, president and vice president of OceanQuest, Inc. briefed me about their company's background, corporate philosophy, and reasons for choosing this island and its only hotel/dive operation, the Meridian Club, as one of their dive resort offerings.

OceanQuest, based in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, is a dynamic company and one of the leading firms in the dive travel business. Prior to the formation of OceanQuest, Frank had extensive experience in marketing and corporate organization, while Amy's professional expertise was as a college administrator. Their far-ranging research and preparation for the organization of the company gave them many insights into the special problems and needs of the travelers they would serve. Both had long real-

ized that most divers are independent types who prefer not to be hustled around in groups. The result of their research showed that one out of every two dive excursions was booked on an independent basis. From their own experience as frequent traveling divers both knew that booking your own travel can be a highly frustrating

tour guide company. Such information would involve a great deal more than how much the trip would cost and when rooms would be available. OceanQuest would provide very specific information down to the details of how deep and what kind of dives were available, photographic facilities and courses, charges if any, for additional



For The Escapist- MERIDIAN CLUB In The Turks & Caicos

Text and Photography
by Steve Lucas



chore, often full of surprises, many frequently unpleasant.

Joining forces, their desire was to create a company whose only goal was to meet the specialized needs of divers. This would eventually become a firm specializing as a dive travel consulting and marketing company providing highly accurate, usable information to divers instead of acting only as the traditional travel agency or

air fills or extra dives, as well as the types of boats used for offshore diving. With this information readily available, individuals, clubs, dive stores and travel agencies could be aimed precisely at the type of resort wanted. The final result would be that OceanQuest would handle 100 percent of the details of booking the trip while offering a fair commission to the club, store or agency. This would include



Photograph by Jim and Cathy Church

A fantastic variety of excellent dive sites by day. A fantastic variety of restaurants and clubs by night. For a copy of our 24-page Dive Guide, write: United States Virgin Islands Division of Tourism, P.O. Box 471269, Miami, FL 33152.

**“...the United States Virgin Islands
have it all.”** *Jim and Cathy Church*

MERIDIAN CLUB

such minute details as advising of best flights through the company's worldwide airline reservation computer.

Frank and Amy's goal was to be much more than the average booking agent. Thus, it became imperative to offer only the resorts they could be completely comfortable in marketing. Diving, accommodations, food and related services had to be as predictable as possible. This led to trips like ours, in which the resorts are visited regularly and examined first hand. OceanQuest already represented a number of the better known, highly respected operators in both the Caribbean and South Pacific. Meridian Club was chosen to fill the specialized demand of a growing number of people—a first class escapist dive vacation.

Meridian Club is a private resort and up until recently was open only to members and their guests. On the leeward side of Pine Cay, it stands along a golden strand of glimmering sand considered to be the finest beach in this island country. Facing away from the prevailing wind, the cay and its neighboring cays form a protective barrier which calms the offshore water. It remains relatively stable in almost any wind other than the onslaught of winter's storms. These island obstructions create a tranquil environment for strolling on exquisite, near barren sand knolls, plying the calm waves on one of the club's Windsurfers or sailboats, or lazily flying a kite. The beach is perfect for any of 1000 concoct-it-yourself activities or doing nothing at all. Totally ordered toward escapism, the serene solitude is the principal reason the club's owners and members chose the location. There are no telephones, no cars (they are forbidden, all transportation occurs in electric golf carts), and few stringent rules. The entire island is operated under a theme of getting back to the basics of relaxation including the utilization of alternate energy sources. The roads are unpaved, the electric generators are shut down at 11:00 pm and the recommended dress is an old, faded shirt and shorts.

Paradoxically, the club is unassumingly elegant, replete with freshwater pool, spacious, well appointed rooms, each furnished with a private patio directly on the beach and room service if required. There is little regimentation other than dinner is served family style promptly at 7:30 pm. After dinner coffee is served in the upstairs lounge or the veranda overlooking the turquoise glow of the pool: a touch of class and dash of style added to this ambience of total relaxation. Conversation over coffee or stronger drink may lead to the realization that the names of some of your fellows are well known in American social circles. It is not uncommon

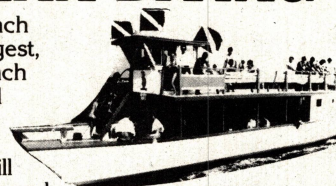
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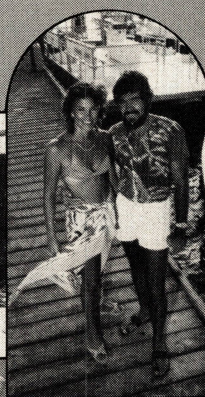
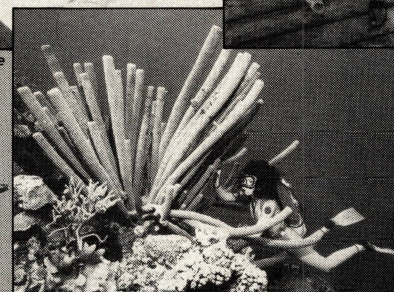


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© Rick Frehsee



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MERIDIAN CLUB

mon to find oneself passing casual conversation with a shipping magnate, the chairman of a major U.S. corporation, or the chief of a large government agency. Pine Cay is where they come to escape Mainstreet, USA.

The club's interest in alternate energy is much more than one of mere infatuation. Closely interwoven into the fabric of this special culture is a deep respect for nature and its preservation. Approximately one mile from the club is the geodesic dome that houses the PRIDE Foundation. The mission of PRIDE (Protect our Reefs and Islands from Degradation and Exploitation) is to learn to live with the environment. Projects include the use of solar and wind energy to power the research station, growing the majority of the food and teaching the islanders to farm the sea through mariculture. The principal food source of most islands, the conch, has been reared successfully in special mariculture tanks from the egg stage through the first six months. Classes are held to educate high school students from the other islands that this food source, which has been taken for granted, is indeed exhaustible. In theory, research has found it is possible for the eggs of a single female conch to supply the entire yearly consumption and export needs of the Turks and Caicos. Only the way to raise them all remains to be found. Open daily, the facilities can serve as the focal point of a day of investigation.

Directly adjacent to the dome are the docks and buildings of PRIDE Divers. Tanks and other heavy equipment of this well equipped operation mysteriously find their way to and from the 34 foot Bristol Bluewater flattop with little effort from guests. The need for security on the cay is so minimal almost all gear can safely remain on the boat overnight. Buildings are rarely locked and few doors, including the guest rooms, even have locks.

All dives are close to the island and the time to the reefs averages less than 15 minutes. Diving Pine Cay is quite different from many well organized Caribbean resorts. Few visitors engage in the sport. Six or eight divers is considered a large group. As a result, the diving is scheduled around the guests' rather than the dive shop's timetable. Morning dives usually leave between 9:00 and 10:00 am and may be one or two tanks depending on the stamina of the individuals.

There are a dozen or so designated sites and two of these rank high in popularity. One is not actually a specific dive, but a large range of sites called the Blue Hills. Mammoth ridge-like coral precipices alternately rise and fall 20 feet or more to form a maze above the ribbons of sandy surge channels. Each is similar to a mini-wall, 50 to 80 feet from surface

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to the sand. Divers can swim along the face of steep cliffs past dense, multicolored sponges and thick, lavish coral formations. The area is noted for its large schools of grunts, spadefish and Bermuda chub. Eagle rays, Nassau groupers and even the occasional shark are not uncommon. The surge channels spill over the drop like mounds of refined sugar, terracing their way into the depths. Water clarity from the open ocean is normally excellent and the next terrace, 50 to 100 feet below, is almost always visible. In a few places caves cut back under the hills, tempting you to bounce down deeper to take a look.

Eagle Ray is a totally different area. Isolated mounds, densely packed with dozens of coral species, are neatly arranged on a flat, 40 foot sand bottom. A huge southern stingray, five feet wide and at least eight feet long, seems to make the area his domain. Lying flat on the sand, the regal behemoth remained perfectly stationary, allowing us to stroke his wings and take close-ups of his eye. Around his throne room the reef is jammed with bright yellow sponges, delicately laced fire corals and thousands of tropicals. The area could keep a macro photographer busy for a dozen dives.

Inshore, a long fringing barrier reef, barely 15 feet deep, is tightly fused with overhangs of elkhorn and other massive corals. Old structures have been over-

grown, forming numerous open ended caves. At Fort George, a long abandoned British garrison just north of Pine Cay, several huge ancient cannons lie at the island's edge. Once standing guard over Pine Cay's precious natural supply of fresh water, these massive weapons now lie forever muted in three feet of seawater. Site of the Turks and Caicos only national park, Fort George makes for excellent snorkeling and exploring. Still further north is Parrot Cay, formerly Pirate Cay, which is supposedly the (very) loose model for Peter Benchley's highly imaginative novel, *The Island*. Parrot makes a perfect setting for a full day's outing.

Escaping to Pine Cay is a unique dive vacation, one without shopping, TV or gambling. If you are an avowed or aspiring escapist this could well be your spot. OceanQuest has a well outlined kit giving you more detailed information about the Meridian Club, Pine Cay, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and more. With a toll free call the package can be in your hands quickly: (800) 526-1394. In New Jersey, Canada, or outside the U.S. call (201) 744-5254—Telex: 831383 STWS/Att: OQUEST. For written requests, contact: OceanQuest, Inc., 139 Woodlawn Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

SOUTH PACIFIC TOURS

The Waikiki Aquarium, a non-profit, education oriented institution, is offering

three South Pacific tours: Philippines, May 21-June 6; Palau/Truk, June 14-28; and Tonga, July 13-27. All tours are accompanied by a marine biologist, and the Palau/Truk tour will feature courses in NAUI certified underwater photography and wreck diving.

The trip price includes: roundtrip air fare, internal air transportation, land/sea transfers, lectures and instruction, and accommodations based on itineraries.

For information contact Education Section, Waikiki Aquarium, 2777 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.

PINGER PAMPHLET

A nine-page applications note pamphlet on underwater acoustic tracking and relocating systems is available free from Helle Engineering Inc., 7198 Convoct Ct., San Diego, CA 92111; telephone (619) 278-3521.

The pamphlet describes, in words and drawings, how pingers (acoustic beacons), directional antennas and pinger receivers function to locate objects to which pingers have been attached. These objects range from cables and anchors to submersibles and downed aircraft.

Further, pingers can be used to track divers, bells, pipeline pigs and even sea creatures for scientific studies. And, they can be used to locate sunken ships and geological formations.



"I've led many divers to resorts all over the Caribbean. During my recent trip to Tortola, I found Jim and Randy, the Aquatic Centres divemasters, to be the finest guides I've ever worked with. Their knowledge of the vast and diverse underwater beauty of the B.V.I., as well as individual attention to my group members, transformed each dive from an enjoyable tour into an invigorating experience. I'll be back!"

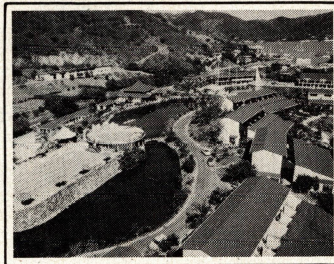
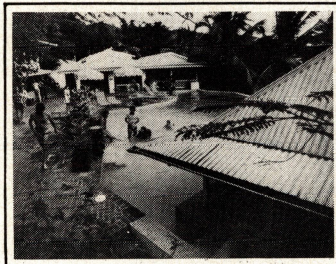
*Jim Gilligan, Owner
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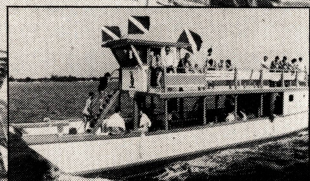
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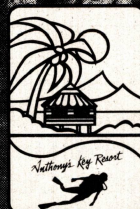
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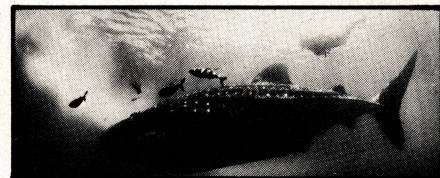
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WHALE SHARK EXPEDITION

La Mer Diving Seafari, Inc. of New York is offering two expeditions to the Sea of Cortez (Baja, California) to photograph the largest fish in the ocean. One voyage, escorted by David and Anne Doubilet, and featuring an advanced underwater photography seminar, will depart May 23 and return May 31. The sec-



photo/David Doubilet

ond, escorted by Howard Hall and featuring an advanced underwater cinematography seminar, will run May 31-June 8. Both departures will be accompanied by La Mer president Amos Nachoum.

Prior expeditions have encountered, filmed and photographed up to six whale sharks, each ranging in length from 25 to 40 feet. Some of these sharks weighed well over ten tons and were filmed point-blank, in some cases from inches away.

A spotter plane will be chartered to locate whale sharks. The spotter will report by radio to La Mer's 80 foot dive boat, *Don Jose*.

For detailed information and reservations, contact La Mer Diving Seafari, Inc., 823 UN Plaza, Suite 810, New York, NY 10017; (212) 599-0886.

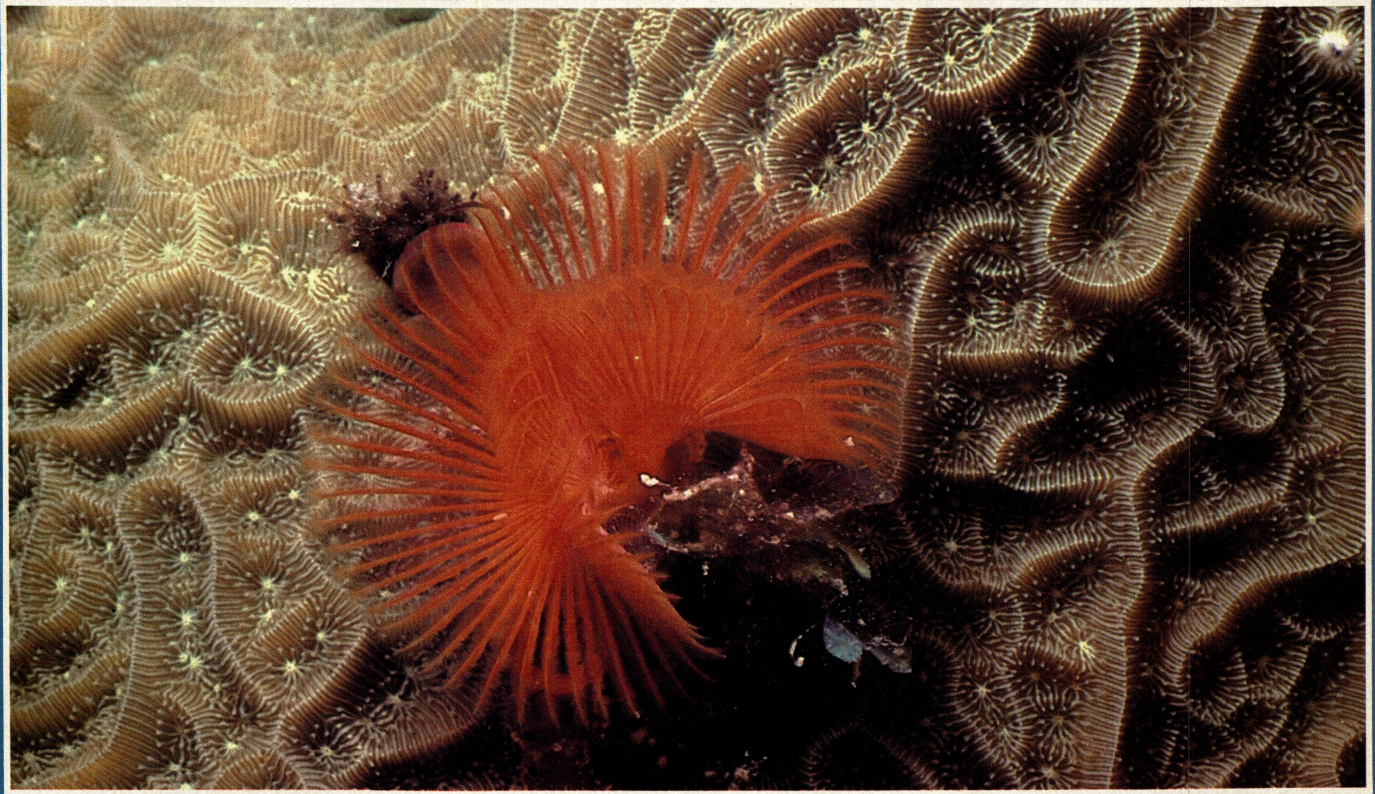
SUNSEEKER HOLIDAYS/TOBAGO

Scuba divers can now enjoy Tobago through a new package offered by Sunseeker Holidays. The eight day/seven night package (EP) is from April 15-Dec. 15. This includes accommodations at the Sandy Point Beach Club (or equivalent hotel), all ground transfers between airport and hotel, and includes transportation between hotel and dive shop. A series of 12 dives at different areas around the island with tanks, weights, boat and dive guide is included. There is a deduction for non-divers on this fully commissionable package. Sunseeker also offers a bonus of one free land and dive package for every ten people in any group.

The diving is under the direction of PADI certified Jim Young, owner-operator of Dive Tobago Ltd. Groups are escorted from the United States by a PADI certified instructor/divemaster.

BWIA is the package's participating carrier with daily direct flights from New York and Miami. For further information, contact Sunseeker Holidays, 1780 Broadway, New York, New York 10019; or phone toll free (800) 422-2020—in New York call (212) 586-3441.

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Cayman Islander

A Dive Resort
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TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAWN CAHOTY

During a time when no diver can afford to travel without getting maximum mileage from his/her vacation dollar, two members of Grand Cayman's resort industry are working closely together to offer visitors a complete, bargain scuba vacation package.

The Cayman Islander Hotel and Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. have combined services to offer a dive package which includes: roundtrip air fare from Miami on Cayman Airways Boeing 727 jets; eight nights/seven days deluxe accommodations at the Cayman Islander; six days of diving with Bob Soto's Diving Ltd., including six morning two tank dives, one night dive, and unlimited shore diving during regular business hours; welcome cocktail upon arrival; full breakfast each morning; manager's rum punch party on Friday night; and Bob Soto's T-shirt. This complete package is only \$499 per person, double occupancy, \$459 triple or \$439 per person quadruple.

Other packages include all of the above features for six nights/five days with four days of diving for \$399 per person, double; \$359 per person, triple; or \$339 quadruple. The four day/three night package prices are \$289, \$269 and \$259 respectively. There is a six percent government room tax and ten percent service charge in lieu of gratuities. *Prices are effective April 15-December 14.*

This incredibly low-priced dive package places Grand Cayman in a highly competitive position with other Caribbean destinations and the Bahamas. Divers who haven't yet experienced Grand Cayman's dramatic coral drop-offs and prolific marine life don't have to wait any longer to visit this British Crown Colony, 480 miles south of Miami. Cayman is now as affordable as it is accessible (an hour from Miami by air).

The Cayman Islander offers the kind of comfort and atmosphere you would expect to find in a traditional quality chain motel in the U.S. Just three miles north of George Town on West Bay road, the

property is convenient to shopping, a variety of restaurants and the many watersports, recreational and nightlife activities of Cayman's famous Seven Mile Beach.

Although the Cayman Islander is not a beachfront resort (it is a roadside motel) it has become one of Cayman's most popular hotels. This is owing to the quality of its facilities, reasonable rates and a courteous management and staff who create the kind of friendly atmosphere for which Cayman is famous.

And, take the name seriously: This property may be traditional American in appearance, but it is owned and staffed by Caymanians. The Cayman Islander was planned and built by a Caymanian businessman, A.L. Thompson, on his own property in 1979. The hotel opened that year with 33 rooms and later expanded to include a new wing, for a total of 67 deluxe air-conditioned rooms, each with two queen-size beds, private bath and private porch or patio with lake or pool view. (Yes, there is actually a small, picturesque lake behind the hotel—not for swimming, however.)

There is a freshwater swimming pool, poolside bar, and poolside cafe, open from 7:00 am until 1:00 am for breakfast, lunch and light dinners. The chef turns out excellent omelets, chicken, fish and turtleburgers for a very modest price.

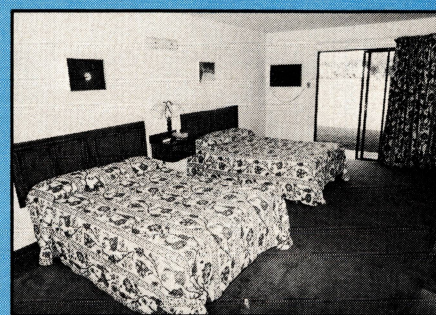
In 1980 the Cayman Islander became a resort for divers, when Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. owner, Ron Kipp, established a link with the hotel to provide full diving facilities for guests. There is a complete dive shop in the main building, adjacent to the hotel lobby, which also houses Soto's Photos, offering rental camera gear and overnight E-6 processing. Divers staying at the Cayman Islander are provided with daily pick-up service and transportation for morning and afternoon dives aboard Soto's fleet.

In addition to providing Grand Cayman with quality accommodations, the Cayman Islander has consistently offered one of the lowest room rates on the island.

Owner Thompson made it clear that part of the reason for this resort venture was to provide affordable quality lodging not only for visitors but also for Caymanians returning from overseas or visiting from the sister islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—hence the motel concept was introduced to Grand Cayman. And, what some considered an unlikely project has become a Caymanian success story. The Cayman Islander quickly established itself as a friendly hotel which welcomed both Cayman Islanders and foreign visitors. What the hotel lacks in beachfront facilities, it makes up for in both value for the dollar and warm, friendly atmosphere.

Overseeing a staff of 28 Caymanians is Rex Miller, a personable Caymanian who has managed the Cayman Islander since April, 1981 and works hard to continue the hotel's tradition of hospitality.

An unusual feature of this property is its doubloon system. No purchases can be made with cash at the pool bar or poolside cafe. All exchanges must be done with Cayman Islander doubloons, repli-



The Cayman Islander offers the kind of comfort found in quality stateside motels.

cas of pirate treasure purchased at the front desk in CI 50¢ and CI \$1 denominations. Unused doubloons can be turned in for cash or carried home as souvenirs.

While relaxing during dry hours divers can enjoy the informal atmosphere of the Islander, or arrange, through the hotel, for island tours or shopping trips, with



pick-up available at the lobby.

The remainder of the time, Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. will provide divers with a passport to Grand Cayman's spectacular underwater world.

In order to ensure that divers on the special bargain Cayman Islander package will be accommodated, Soto's added a fourth dive boat in January, the 36 foot *Island Diver*, a fully-equipped drop-front custom craft which can comfortably hold 20. Rod McDowall, a certified PADI open water instructor from Australia, supervised the overhauling of this boat, rumored to be the original dive boat brought to Cayman by Bob Soto himself. McDowall was named captain of the *Island Diver* and is one of 22 Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. employees ready to serve Islander guests.

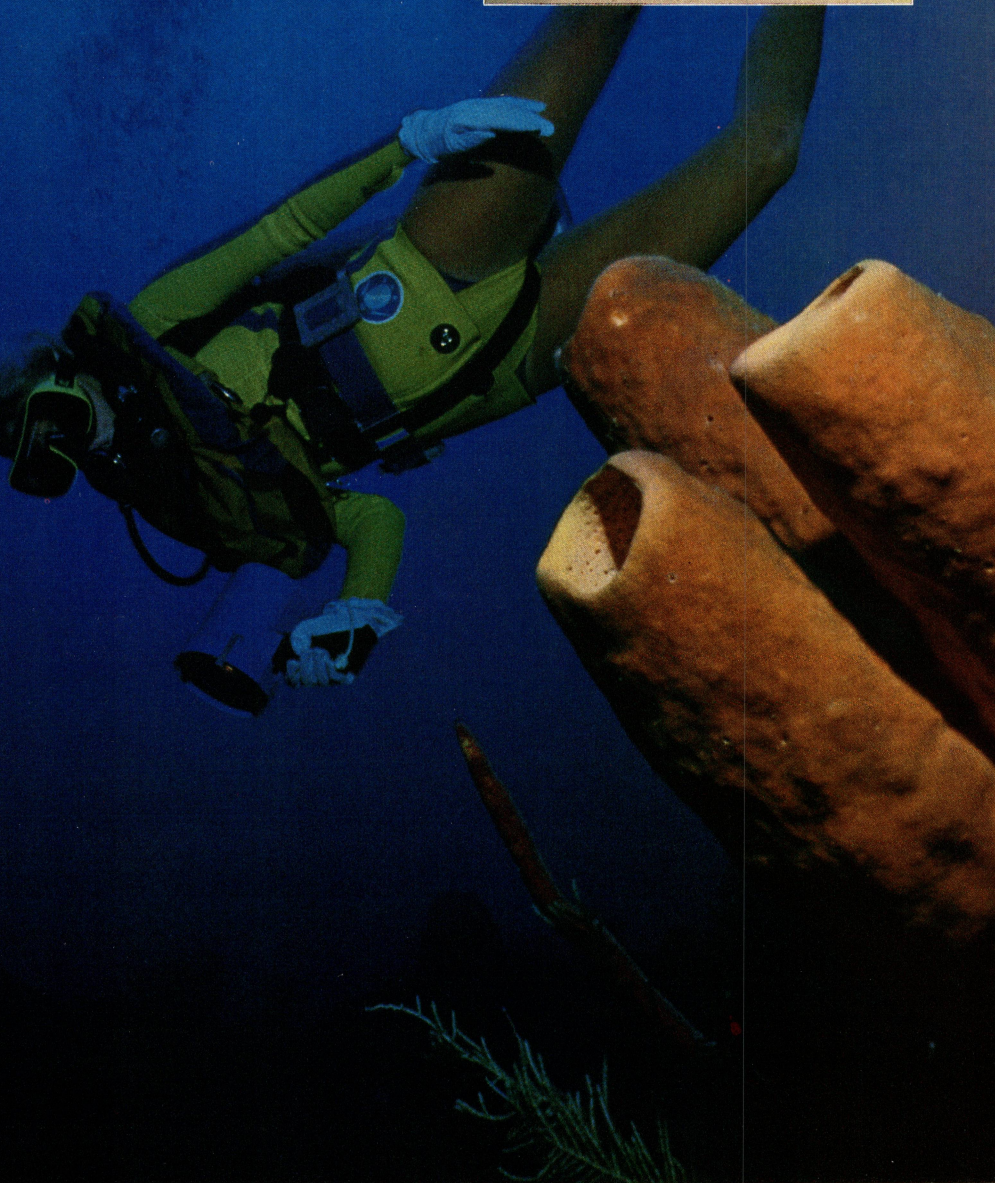
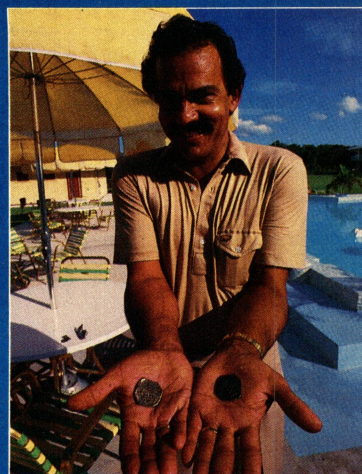
After a quick, five minute ride from the hotel to the dock, divers will enjoy some of the best diving Cayman has to offer. Each morning trip begins with a deeper dive on one of Grand Cayman's dramatic drop-off sites, such as Trinity Caves, where black coral and prolific sponges begin at 50 feet; or Orange Canyon, where huge orange sponges and deep water gorgonians combine to create a startling underwater panorama.

The second dive is on one of the island's many shallow sites. Whether divers spend time exploring the wreck of the *Oro Verde*, a 180 foot, steel-hulled freighter sunk in 1980 as a dive attraction, or the grottoes and intricate cave system of Eden Rocks, the second dive of the day will prove exciting.

Divers have eight months to take advantage of this bargain package in the Cayman Islands. If you've waited to visit this top dive destination in the Western Caribbean, 1983 should be your year.

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Above: The Cayman Islander property is convenient to shopping, water-sports and other activities. Top right: Manager Rex Miller holds two Cayman Islander doubloons. Right: The drop-front *Holiday Diver* is one of four dive boats in the Bob Soto's fleet. Below: Orange Canyon is just one of the sites visited by the Soto's boats.



Human-Dolphin Community Under Construction in Mexico

BY HILLARY HAUSER

He's intense, as one might expect a mind scientist to be, and he is one of the few people in the world who has been the inspiration for two motion pictures.

Most of his scientific efforts have gone toward finding a way to communicate with dolphins, and at present he is building a spa in Mexico where you can communicate with the mammals.

Dr. John Lilly talks very little, but when he does, one takes notice because his ideas are, as they say, far-out. He is the inventor of the isolation tank—a sort of coffin filled with body-temperature water in which people can float and seal themselves from outside stimuli (this inspired the movie *Altered States*). His work to establish communication with dolphins in-

spired the film, *Day of the Dolphin*.

The "ultimate spa" he is now building—in the sunny Mexican coastal town of Costa Careyes near Puerto Vallarta—is a little of both film treatments, actually, when you think about it.

Through his Human Dolphin Foundation in Malibu, Lilly and his wife, Antoinette, envision their spa as being a place where you can swim, snorkel, sit on the beach, regenerate soul and body—and communicate with dolphins just as they have been doing for years.

"You get a perspective on awareness that you can't get from just talking to other humans," said Mrs. Lilly, who is chairman of the Human Dolphin Foundation board. "You begin to understand your own humanness."

Mrs. Lilly said the idea behind the dolphin spa (tentatively called Delphi) is not

only to create a place where people can come and detoxify, but also to get dolphins and humans together. The most important thing, she said, is to get dolphins and children together. Children can communicate, pick up new languages, she said, whereas adults are programmed.

"Have you seen *E.T.*?" she asked. "That is exactly the kind of thing we are talking about."

The idea of the Mexican project is that dolphins will swim into the cove from the wild and mingle with human beings. The Lillys even envision underwater birthing taking place in the cove, with dolphins involved in the birthing process. The idea is that the best time of communication between dolphin and man is at the moment of birth, or at least when a child is very young—before the limitations of adulthood enter in.

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Lilly, who has written a number of best-selling books about his work with dolphins, believes that when man communicates successfully with these mammals he learns something about his origins.

He described his program, called Jenus, in which dolphin language is deciphered underwater and in air. This work formed the basis of the movie *Day of the Dolphin*, but Lilly said the movie was not indicative of how dolphins behave and in fact "downgraded" them.

He said that dolphin communication was more on the level of the popular movie *E.T.*, in which an extraterrestrial communicates to children through their inner feelings.

"The talk is more of an appeal to pain or happiness, more body language," said Dr. Lilly. "It's psychic."

Mrs. Lilly said the "time was right" for the human-dolphin community in Mexico, because people were ready to accept "more spiritual concepts." The people pledging money to the project, she said, are heads of large corporations. A major mover in the project, she said, is Maria Niarchos, of the Niarchos shipping family and a trustee of the Human Dolphin Foundation. Also involved is the Italian family Brignone, which owns the Hotel Careyes and is allowing the Lillys to work in one of the coves in Costa Careyes.

Mrs. Lilly said the project will have a significant impact. Where science is often predetermined by the design of the experiment, in Costa Careyes the design of the experiment will not predetermine the results, because of its "freeflow" nature, she said.

"My husband is not a normal scientist," she explained.

Lilly talked about the isolation tank he invented. He said the tank is a way of "getting inside oneself" and that he still uses it to relax. Asked if he uses it regularly, Lilly said he does nothing systematically—"in food, sleep, you name it."

Lilly, whose books include *Lilly on Dolphins—Humans of the Sea* and *The Deep Self*, described another book he is working on, called *From Here to Allternity*. "It's a manual on how to amuse God," said Lilly. "It will be out in 1983. The theme? At any given instant, you have all possibilities open to you—including communication with dolphins. You must keep those possibilities open."

Lilly recalled the "most exciting day" of his scientific work:

"It was the day when I realized that Elvar (a dolphin) was a human," he said. "It was a sudden intuitional flash, a feeling of weirdness. There was a being on the other side of the (Jenus) screen. He was reacting toward us as hard as we reached toward him."

Lilly said that art is one way of communication, the sort of inner talk that dolphins engage in. "Art is always in the forefront of science," he said. "Art is the vision of things to come."

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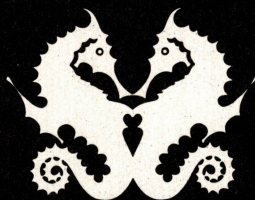
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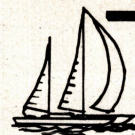
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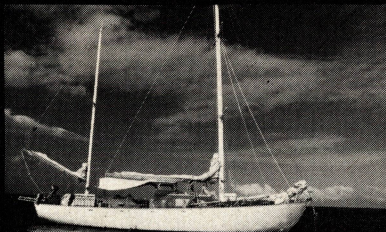


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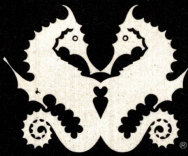
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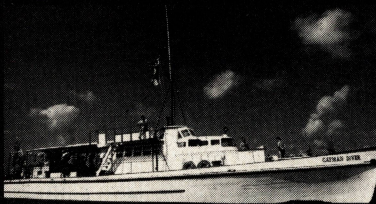
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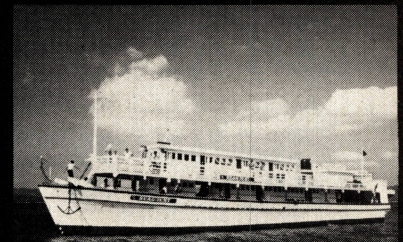
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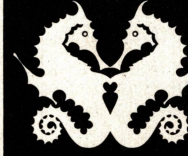
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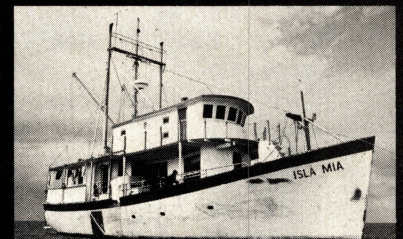
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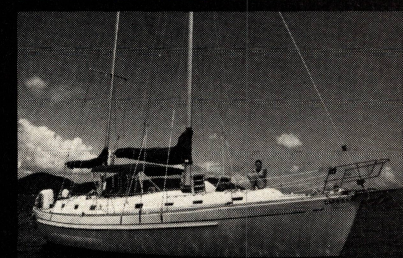
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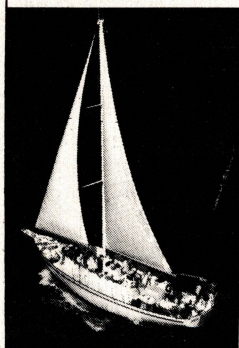
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For more information or reservations, contact Don Foster's Cayman Undersea Adventures, P.O. Box 151, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.; (809) 949-2636 or the state-side representative, Divers Unlimited, 6023 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, FL 33024; (305) 981-0156 or toll free (800) 327-2740.

TORTUGA CLUB EXPANDS

The Tortuga Club, at the East End of Grand Cayman, is a full-service hotel with 800 feet of white sandy beach, protected by miles of coral reef. Under new ownership since October, 1982, The Tortuga Club is a hotel for vacationers, and especially divers and watersports lovers.

The Club presently has 14 air-conditioned, beach front rooms, dining room, bar, lounge and dive facilities. The dining room, headed by Mrs. Cleo Connolly for the past 19 years, features West Indian and American cuisine.

Dive operations are under the capable direction of NAUI and PADI divemasters. Novice divers can take the resort course or become fully certified. A championship tennis court, Sunfish and bicycles are available free for hotel guests.

For certified divers, The Tortuga Dive Club has been established. For a one-time fee its members receive accommodations and three dives daily, including equipment, for one week per year for a specified number of years, using the hotel facilities. A new dive boat is being added, making a total of four, all leaving from the hotel dock.

Sport Fish Sharing, a new concept for The Tortuga Club, will accept a limited membership in 1983. For one fee, the club will provide 60 foot ocean-going boats, fully staffed and equipped for a six day deep sea sport fishing vacation annually in the excellent big game fishing waters surrounding the Caymans.



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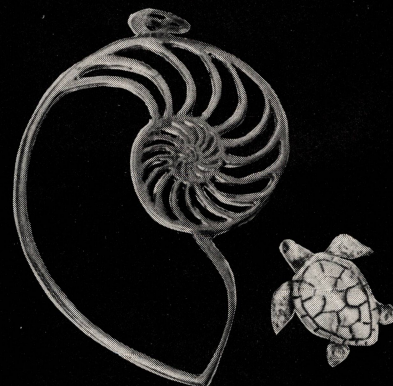
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MCKENNEY FILM EXPEDITION

Jack McKenney will be producing a new film this year about whale sharks and is making ten spaces available for divers and underwater photographers who wish to take part in the expedition.

The film, *The Cabo Express*, will be cut to television length and will also be used

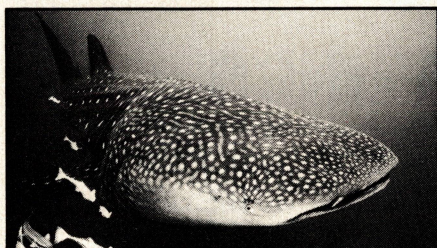


photo: Jack McKenney

in Jack's Dive to Adventure lecture series. A premiere showing is scheduled at the 1984 DEMA show in New Orleans.

The expedition will be boarding the spacious and comfortable 120 foot long *Baja Explorador* in La Paz and steaming south to the waters off Cabo San Lucas. Working in conjunction with a spotter plane and using the *Baja Explorador* as home base, the divers will use three speedy Boston Whalers to maneuver in and dive from.

Whale sharks have been sighted in this area during May and June, and prior expeditions have been very successful in making contact with the 25 to 40 foot long animals, with many divers able to ride on the animals' backs.

The expedition will last for 14 days from Sunday, May 22 through Sunday, June 5. Participants will be limited to ten people plus the film crew. For additional information about the film production contact Jack McKenney, 1842 Micheltorena St., Los Angeles, CA 90026; phone (213) 663-3486.

Expediciones Baja S.A. is the travel agent. A deposit of \$150 and travel inquiries should go to the following address. Air fare and two hotel nights in La Paz are not included in the price. Please contact: Mona Rouse, Expediciones Baja S.A., P.O. Box 8998, Santa Ana, CA 92703; (714) 638-9467.

If you wish, Mona will arrange for your flight into La Paz, hotel accommodations for the two nights in La Paz, and your tourist card.

SEAWORLD IN JAMAICA

Seaworld Resorts Ltd. has opened in Montego Bay, Jamaica, at the Caribblue Beach Hotel. The new dive operation features equipment, instructors, dive guides, boat dives, E-6 film processing and all inclusive dive packages.

Such sites as Widowmaker's Cave, Airport Reef and Drop-off wall are close to Caribblue.

For more information contact: Seaworld Resorts, Ltd., Box 610 Rose Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica, W.I.; or phone (809) 953-2250.

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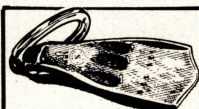
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BONAIRE CONCH FARM

A conch farm, sponsored jointly by the Bonaire government and a Netherlands Antilles conservation agency, has successfully completed early stages of a program designed to repopulate the many lagoons in Bonaire, Aruba and Curacao where the mollusks were bountiful until a few years ago.

A mature conch, typically a spiral shell with a beautiful rosy-pink interior, is some ten inches long and eight inches in diameter. Its meat weighs about one-half pound and is greatly prized for soups, stews and other dishes. It reaches full growth in about three years.

In recent years the conch (pronounced either "conk" or "conch") have been removed faster than they can reproduce. Under the farm program, which has already produced several hundred thousand young conch, some 150,000 six month old specimens will be dropped into Antillean waters where their forebears grew. Similar quantities will be deposited at three month intervals thereafter.

The Bonaire conch experiment is headed by Roberto K. Hansen, a 26 year old marine biologist who is working for his doctorate after extensive training in the U.S. and Canada. His task begins with the gathering of eggs by trained scuba divers. The eggs are incubated under carefully controlled conditions for four weeks, when they begin to grow shells. In this stage they are deposited for another five months in outdoor tanks.

When the shells have hardened to the point that they are safe from predator fish which normally consume the great majority of young conch, the mollusks are set out in the quiet waters of their normal habitat.

Visitor tours of the conch farm are conducted four afternoons weekly, preferably by prior arrangement. 

CAYMAN KAI CHANGES

Cayman Kai, Grand Cayman's 26 unit resort in North Side, has appointed John C. Darby as assistant manager. Darby has worked as a divemaster on Grand Cayman for the past seven years and has been in charge of watersports at Cayman Kai for the past two. A PADI trained master diver, Darby has been very active in the Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association.

Manager John Claypool said Cayman Kai is now using only U.S. prices on its rate sheet and restaurant menu. Cayman Kai's restaurant has added Caymanian dishes to the evening menu, prepared by Mabel Powell, who has been chef at the resort for the past 13 years.

Cayman Kai also features a Sunday brunch from 9:00 am until 11:30 am. For information contact (809) 947-9556. 

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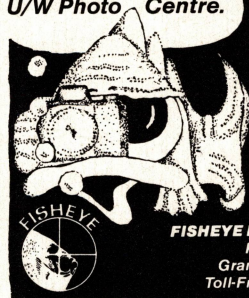
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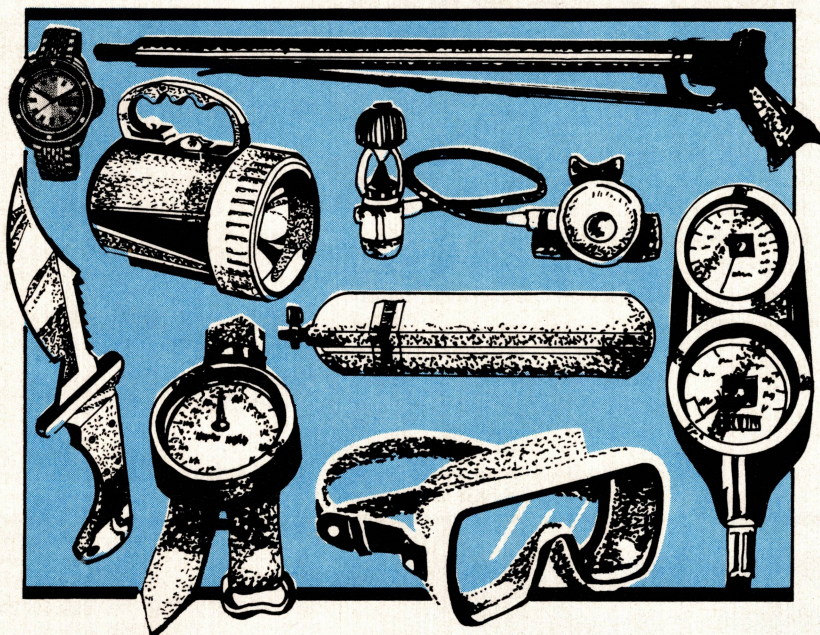
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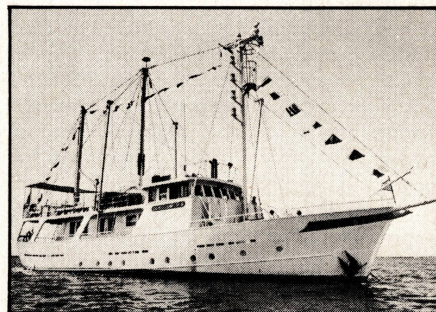
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PELORUS JACK DAY TRIPS

Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. and the Holiday Inn Grand Cayman are jointly offering experienced divers an all day dive trip aboard the 102 foot *Pelorus Jack*.

The day begins with full breakfast and unlimited coffee aboard the *Pelorus Jack*,



followed by the morning two tank dive which includes one wall dive and a shallow dive on Cayman's reefs. Lunch is usually fresh local seafood, prepared by chef Nigel Spencer-Barnes. Before the final dive of the day, guests can enjoy sunbathing on the ship's deck while cruising off Grand Cayman. After the last dive, a cash bar is available, serving a complete range of tropical drinks and beverages.

For information and reservations, contact Bob Soto's Diving Ltd., P.O. Box 1801, Grand Cayman; phone (809) 949-4091.

DIVERS UNLIMITED PACKAGES

Divers Unlimited, which incorporates Underwater Careers International, is now offering dive vacation packages at Grand Cayman's newly renovated Royal Palms Hotel on Seven Mile Beach, the Coral Caymanian Hotel and the Coral Caymanian Condominiums. These packages are offered in conjunction with Don Foster's Cayman Undersea Adventures, which serves all three properties on central Seven Mile Beach.

Dive packages are available for four days/three nights or eight days/seven nights. Four day/three night packages include two days of boat diving, weightbelt, air fills, tank and backpack. Eight day/seven night packages include five days of boat diving, tanks, weightbelts and backpack. Rates are EP (no meals) and do not include six percent government tax and gratuities.

Special rates for divers are available at the Coral Caymanian Condominiums.

Cayman Undersea Adventures is at the Royal Palms and Coral Caymanian Hotels and offers daily dive trips at 8:30 am for a two tank dive and 1:00 pm for an afternoon one tank dive. Guests will dive from one of two new Bristol Blue Water flattop boats, including the 36 foot *Undersea*

Diver. Rental equipment, resort courses and check-out dives are also available through the Royal Palms dive shop. Cayman Undersea Adventures caters to underwater photographers and special photo dive trips can be arranged.

For information on these Grand Cayman packages, contact Divers Unlimited, 6023 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, FL 33024; or phone (305) 981-0156 in Florida. Outside Florida, U.S. toll free (800) 327-2740. 🐠

BELIZE PACKAGES

Several package options for the diver and/or adventure traveler are now offered in Belize through locally operated, experienced firms.

Out Island Divers currently has four options, according to Ray Bowers, owner and operator of the 37 foot *Reef Roamer*. All packages include combination boat and hotel accommodations, meals, two boat dives per day with tanks, charter transfers and a trip to Lighthouse Reef.

The four packages—Vacation Leisure Diver, Adventurer, Camp-Divers Special and Live-aboard Roamer—include other options as barbecues and rum punch parties, camping on Half Moon Caye and treks to the out islands.

Groups number 10 or 16 minimum for eight days/seven nights with 10 and 20 percent commission options. The live-aboard *Roamer* package requires a minimum of two to five divers with same commission options.

For further information, contact: Sport Tours, 305 Alcazar Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134, (305) 448-4385 or Telex 519597 Celltex; or Out Island Divers, P.O. Box 7, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize, Central America, (011) 501-026-2002 or 011-501-7192.

Mopan Tours, operated by Tom and Jean Shaw of the Hotel Mopan, combines room and board with treks to the Mountain Pineridge to see the 1000 foot waterfalls, Mayan ruins, the Mennonite town of Spanish Lookout, hidden pools and more.

Shuttled in an air-conditioned 14 passenger van, tours accommodate four to six people with an assortment of five day/four night packages. Birdwatching and canoe trips are also offered.

For more information, contact: Hotel Mopan, 55 Regent Street, Belize City, Belize, Central America; 2351 or 3356.

Lascelle Tillett and Sarita Griffin of S & L Guided Tours coordinate ground and tour packages in an air-conditioned van or cars with half or full-day or overnight stay options.

Trips to Spanish Lookout, a "modern" Mayan village, St. Herman's caves, falls, sparkling pools with overnights in the thatched bungalows of Chaa Creek Cottages are available.

For more information, contact: S & L Guided Tours, P.O. Box 700, Belize City, Belize, Central America; 3062/Cable: Lascelles. 🐠



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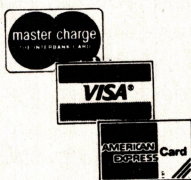
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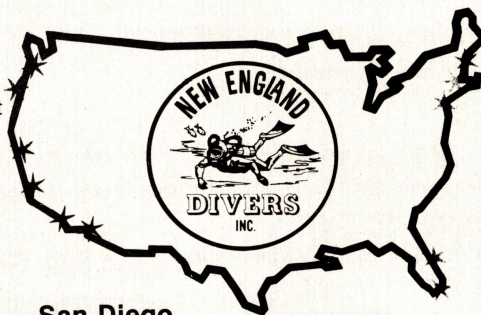
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